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THE NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

THE MISSIONARY TRUMPET.

WE return, this week, to the affair at Tahiti. The meeting of the directors and friends of the London Missionary Society, on Wednesday last, at Exeter hall, imposes upon us a disagreeable duty. At that meeting a key-note was struck, with which the various dissenting churches are expected to respond in unison. Its tone is harsh—minatory—warlike; and the feelings it is calculated to awaken are such as ill accord, we think, with the purity of devotion, or the calmness of faith.

The occasion is unquestionably a trying one. A whirlwind, raised by evil passions, is sweeping over the Society Islands, tearing up and laying prostrate the work of years, destroying the fairest fruits of civilisation, endangering the lives of missionaries, overturning the Tahitian throne, and strewing the islands with the wrecks of Christian institutions. It is an awful calamity—one which no lover of his kind can look upon without emotions of the most poignant grief. To our minds, however, it does appear that devastation so sudden and so extensive, permitted as it is by Him who sways the destinies of his own church, cannot be without its appropriate moral. To ask what that moral is—to search into our own hearts, and examine with unshrinking fidelity our past conduct—to suspect that the cause may be with us—that guilt of our own may have drawn upon us this visitation—and, without abandoning for an instant the ground of right, and justice, and mercy, to "go softly," and confess freely, and speak "more in sorrow than in anger"—would seem to us to have been the most suitable tone for missionary zeal to have taken at such a juncture.

We had hoped the professedly religious world had done for ever with those mischievous allusions to our "national honour," which serve only to keep alive the notion, that superiority in physical force is somewhat upon which Christian people may rationally pride themselves. We think it time for ministers of peace to forget the lines which are so often, alas! heard from their lips, and which, consequently, acquire a sanctity which they little merit—

> "The flag that braved a thousand years,
> The battle and the breeze."

We may be more nice than wise—but we own that we have no admiration of that familiarity with military ideas which glibly talks of "standards" and "gonfalons," as though they formed part of the *insignia* of the gospel. We are sensitive to the reproach which Christian missions must needs come under, when the report of their meetings offers an opportunity for the *Times* to turn critic, and to criticise with propriety. The gentlemen—some of them, at least, for we must make one exception—who stood forward on Wednesday last to give the tone to their country brethren are the same who kept aloof from the Anti-state-church Conference, lest they should render their reputation responsible for the violence of speech which they anticipated would characterise it. We ask any intelligent and conscientious observer to place side by side the forty hours' proceedings in the one case, and the four hours' proceedings in the other, and then to pronounce upon which side traces of a violent spirit show themselves more distinctly and offensively, and in which assembly there was most talk

> "Of guns, and drums, and wounds."

"I do remember me of mine offence" would not have been an inappropriate quotation in the mouth of the conductors of the London Missionary Society, when contemplating the sad havoc committed by the French in the beautiful isle of Tahiti. Could they fail to call to mind how, not long since, they stood by in silence, and witnessed far more atrocious havoc perpetrated by their own countrymen in China—how, at that time, they refused to utter a single condemnatory sentence on the deeds of oppression which British tyranny inflicted upon the innocent—and how they saw in it nothing more than the means resorted to by Providence for opening a door for the preaching of the gospel? Might they not, when the cup was at length handed round to them, have reflected upon their past supineness, and have surmised that the terrible unfaithfulness of the churches at home, whilst that disgraceful work of devastation was going on, had provoked this retribution? Syria, Scinde, Affghanistan, and Gwalior, have, each in its turn, sent up a cry to heaven against the wanton aggressions of Great Britain; and rivers of blood and worlds of immorality have appealed against her for vengeance. The church was then mute: not a single protest did she offer; and, now that she is herself overtaken with a like calamity, does it become her, we ask—does it become the directors of the London Missionary Society, to mingle with horror at outrage and crime no confessions whatever of the guilt which has provoked them? Their censures, we think, should not be exclusively aimed at Lord Aberdeen, for his want of firmness and indifference to the interests of humanity. He is but following the example they set him. He has allowed, without any adequate interposition, wrong the most flagrant to be perpetrated by a foreign power. In the instance of China they did the same thing—they were humble when they ought to have been indignant, and are indignant where they ought to be humble. They tacitly connived at iniquity, and iniquity has turned upon themselves.

This is not the place for religious homilies; nor has the *Nonconformist* ever aspired to be regarded as what, in the current phraseology of the day, is termed, a religious newspaper. We trust, however, that, without neglecting the use of suitable instrumentality, we shall ever be found placing our main reliance for the protection of truth, upon Him who is the Author of it. A little more confidence in His superintending wisdom, and a little less dependence upon the energy of the Foreign office, would not, in our opinion, have been irrelevant in the speeches uttered on Wednesday last. Her Majesty's Secretary of State may be twitted with having nothing but "a ketch" on the waters of Tahiti; but sorry shall we be to see the day when missionary stations look up for protection to full-armed frigates and bristling men-of-war. Men who preach the gospel had far better eschew all such questionable guardianship. "*Non tali auxilio*"—we need not finish the quotation. The firmness which never flinches in the hour of danger we can admire as much as most men; but we like not the tone of defiance which recks not the probable consequences involved in the firing of a single British gun. The anxieties of the meeting to which we refer might more suitably have been allayed by a calm and devotional appeal to the God of nations, than by remarks upon the superior prowess of our own navy, and by denunciations of "dastardly acts of perfidy" committed by the French. These things savour but little of the spirit of Christianity, and ill become a meeting of the friends and supporters of missions.

Our remarks will suffice to show that we have read the report of this meeting with unmingled pain. If that pain is at all mitigated, it is by the hope that the tone we so earnestly deprecate will not elicit a congenial response from the country. We have still a notion—and upon it we oftentimes fall back—that the real religious feeling which pervades the dissenting body is not worthily represented. The anomalous features of it happen to be uppermost. That which is unfortunately oftenest before the eye of the public is what is spurious, rather than what is sound, in the character of British churches. Substantial virtue is hidden, and the lighter counterfeits of it float upon the surface. Otherwise we should be stricken with despondency. For, sure we are, that no greater a calamity can befall a people, than the depravation of the Christian standard of morality by the recognised guides of Christian opinion. When *they* give currency to the maxims of the world, ape its manners, adopt its language, catch and reflect its spirit—it is time to bid farewell to all prospects of social improvement. But, as we have already intimated, we believe the age has outgrown its leaders—and, if we do not greatly mistake, it will appear, ere long, that the management of our religious societies evinces neither that wisdom, disinterestedness, nor spirituality of aim, which will secure it from the unceremonious criticism of dissentient constituents. There are whispers abroad on this question in circles not a few—and well will it be if, by a timely and prudential reform, those whispers are prevented from deepening into thunder. We utter the warning in good faith—we earnestly hope it may be heeded.

ALLEGED ABUSE ABUSED.

WE have given insertion in our columns of correspondence to a letter, subscribed "An Independent," which is devoted to the abuse of the *Nonconformist*. We believe it is not the first we have received from the same hand. We know nothing of the writer—we care not to defend ourselves from his attack. We have perhaps done the severest thing which could be suggested by such malice as we have—namely, allowed him to speak in presence of the public. The sight of his own effusion in print will be the most likely thing to make him blush, or, if not, to make his friends blush for him.

Our object, however, in giving this letter to our readers, is to found thereupon a few reflections. The thing is a specimen—a rich one, it is true—of the mode in which some men cultivate the very faults which they condemn in others. This man charges us with being an uncharitable "accuser of the brethren." Where, in the article to which he alludes, and which he denounces with such sounding fury and such ridiculous feebleness, will he find a tithe of the ultra violence which himself exhibits? Yet the class to which he belongs is a large one—a class who arrogate to themselves the exclusive right of pronouncing judgment on the motives of those from whom they differ—who bottle up all their virulence, and keep it in the warmest corner of their hearts, that they may let it burst forth, hissing and effervescing, into the faces of those who presume to think that a dissenting minister or missionary may, perchance, be in the wrong. Sin does not call forth half the severity of rebuke from them—deviations from sound principle, involving frightfully extensive consequences, do not stir up half the indignation—with which they assail whatever directly or even remotely affects the character of their privileged class. There is no sacrilege in their eyes, but expressed disapprobation of "things as they are." They cry in piteous tones, and with affected horror, "Softly! softly!" when the whip of chastisement is being administered for grave offences—"moderate your violence! show a kindlier temper!" And yet when they take the whip in hand to punish what they term an unbecoming spirit, they knot it again and again, and lay on with a good-will which one is very apt to confound with the acerbity of a soured nature, rather than identify with the indignation of a righteous zeal. The bitterness of spirit with which some who never read our columns remark upon our bitterness of spirit, would often shock those who have not made themselves conversant with the ins and outs, the windings and recesses, of the human heart. Many such letters as we now produce have we received—and, having sucked from them the instruction which the writers did not intend to convey to us, have consigned to the buttermonger for other uses.

It is curious, after all, to watch the fermentation which a little leaven of honest truth produces in an unclarified state of religious society. What strange and unlooked-for scum comes up to the surface! What bubbles of untried and unsound opinion appear, explode, and vanish! 'Tis an odd world, this—a wonderful mess of contrarieties. Christianity will, at length, we doubt not, work it clear of its gross delusions and inconsistencies—but the process will, as certainly, turn up a marvelous variety of anomalous phases of character. These are trite observations—but they may serve "An Independent" as a cud to chew, until we meet with him again. He might have stumbled upon some far less useful in his especial malady. We look for his thanks, and—his gradual improvement.

METROPOLITAN ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

A SPECIAL meeting of the members of this association was held on Wednesday evening last, at the King's Head tavern, Poultry, to take into consideration the altered position of the association, consequent upon the formation of the British Anti-state-church Association. The meeting was numerously attended, and was presided over by Mr Mumford.

Mr G. SIMMONS, one of the secretaries, read a report from the committee, which detailed the proceedings of the association, and gave a concise view of the great anti-state-church movement now in progress. The committee, after referring to the Anti-state-church Conference, and the establishment of the British Association, say—

"It is evident that two societies, having the same object, and employing similar means, and occupying the same ground, cannot be co-existent without impeding the labours of each. That the British would be weakened in the extent to which this should prosper, is manifest, while it is very certain that the general cause would not even be equally promoted. By distinct operations we should fail to secure all the attainable good, while the the law would effectually prevent us co-operating to one end. After the best attention which your committee has been able to give to the subject, and upon a careful review of all the circumstances, it is led to recommend that the association should be dissolved; and though, on many grounds, it does this with regret, it is under a firm conviction that, by so doing, the great end sought to be obtained will be most effectually promoted." It thus concludes:—"That which you have long desired has now been brought to pass. An association has been established at once extensive and efficient, gathering its elements of strength from all quarters, and prepared, in simple dependence upon truth, to instruct the ignorant, to animate the wavering, to lead the earnest, and to repel the adverse. On its success depends the aspect this question shall assume during the next half century—if prosperous, all may by that time be settled. Should it fail, whether from the attacks of its foes or the apathy and indifference of professed friends, it is impossible to say under what conjunction of affairs we may hope for any favourable result; and the day of the church's freedom and the state's security will appear as far distant as ever. With such hopes and fears, it will ill become us to remain passive spectators of the conflict. All who value the truth, and seek its progress, should at once enroll themselves members of the British Anti-state-church Association, and by their labours, public or private, strive to advance its interests, and seize every opportunity to enforce its claims."

Mr DICK moved a resolution (for which, and the others passed, see advertisement), recommending the dissolution of the Metropolitan Association, and urging its members at once to enrol themselves as members of the British. It was matter (said Mr D.) for congratulation, that a society such as the British Association had been established. The prospects were brilliant; and he did hope that the day would not be far distant when we should realise the fruit of present labour.

Mr DANIEL PRATT seconded the resolution. He said that the common cause, he believed, would be best advanced by the dissolution of this association. Dissenters cannot afford to be divided; and therefore he trusted that they would all rally round the British Anti-state-church Association, and aid in carrying out its plans and designs. He did hope that that association was destined to be the instrument, in God's hand, of overturning that corrupt and unholy system which brings so much dishonour upon religion and misery upon men.

The meeting was also addressed by Messrs SIMMONS, C. MIALL, W. CRELLIN, CURLING, EVANS, HOLMES, SMITH, MABBS, and TEMPLETON.

No society, perhaps, was ever dissolved under such circumstances. It was the progress which the cause has made that has led to it. When the Metropolitan Association was formed, in the autumn of 1843, there was but little prospect that such an organisation as the British Anti-state-church Association would be formed. The members of the Metropolitan have acted wisely in breaking up their association, which was one of a merely local character, and joining the British, which should enlist the energies and affections of all those who are anxious to free the church from bondage.

THE FREE CHURCH.

MEETING OF COMMISSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(From a Correspondent.)

ON Wednesday, the 14th ult., the stated meeting of the commission of the General Assembly of the Free Church was held in Edinburgh; the forenoon sederunt in their New College hall, George street; and the evening sederunt in their large hall, Canon mills. Dr Black, of Aberdeen, moderator, in the chair.

Not fewer than twenty most urgent applications for new stations, in order to be erected into regular congregations, being presented, the committee remitted the same to a select committee of their number, to examine how far it was consistent with the regulations of the supreme court to grant their request. Having had their attention particularly directed to certain measures, long in progress amongst them as a church, for the better observance of the sabbath, especially in the prevention of railway companies running their trains on that sacred day, it was, after some interesting conversation, unanimously agreed that as, on the 27th instant, a meeting of the Edinburgh and Glasgow railway proprietors was to be held at Glasgow, so, as many of them as could find it convenient, should constitute themselves shareholders, and, in this way, outvote their opponents; and, that such of them as had meanwhile the right of voting should, as the most effectual method of gaining their object, attend personally, instead of voting by proxies, as had been their wont. Since a bill lately passed in parliament, on the subject of railways running on sabbaths, involved many objectionable clauses, due authority was given to the same committee to petition the legislature thereon. The committee appointed by last assembly to take measures for the erection of a new college connected with the Free church, reported that said assembly had agreed to the institution of a professorship of ethical philosophy, in connexion with those of theology formerly in operation; they had resolved to recommend Mr P. C. Macdougal, one of the existing masters of the Edinburgh New academy, to that office; a proposal which was unanimously adopted. It was also recommended to connect, *quam primam*, a classical tutor with said institution. Hints were also thrown out as to the great importance of establishing a theological seminary at Aberdeen, which is much wanted; it having been unanimously agreed by last assembly, seeing government had ejected some most distinguished members of their body from the Scottish universities, and were projecting the same course with regard to others, that a separate college for themselves should be erected.

The Committee appointed *in hunc effectum* reported that so hopefully had the design now progressed, that they were just on the eve of advertising for some suitable architect. We understand that the liberality of the free church, with the view of having literature, and science, and theology, taught on a more useful principle than in our older institutions, have put into the hands of the building committee the sum of £25,000, by which means an erection not less ornamental than useful to our city is projected. The two most exciting matters which occupied the committee came on for consideration in the evening. As the public was expressly invited, the members met in the large hall, Canonmills. These matters respected the missions projected to Canada and Nova Scotia; and the report as ordered by last assembly to be in preparation on the state of religion. Information had just reached Scotland that in Canada and Nova Scotia disruptions had also taken place amongst those churches which formerly belonged to the Scottish establishment, as well as in the mother country. At a crisis so eventful it was absolutely necessary to mission two or three of their number of acknowledged ability to communicate their warmest sympathies in behalf of their friends—to assist in organising the new churches thus thrown into a disjointed position—to form the basis of providing temporal support—and, above all, to undertake the inspection of the theological students. In the established church in Canada, two to one had remained—whereas in Nova Scotia, two to one had actually come out—all which movements had been accelerated by the late disruption in Scotland. In Canada there were not fewer than 40,000 persons, demanding the supply of religious ordinances, and that too in localities rapidly increasing in population, and even wealth, and where no noble dukes existed, to interfere with the plantation of churches. As much ground as they chose, they could command; all they wanted were willing and able men to preach the gospel. In corroboration of this it was stated, that when Dr Burns was on his Canadian mission, a gentleman had stated to him that such was the great lack of the provinces that they could find abundance of labour for not fewer than two hundred and fifty preachers; that Dr Burns, on his recommendation, had written to Dr Welsh to send over some from Scotland, which letter, however, having probably fallen under the espionage of Sir James Graham, sufficiently accounts for its never having come to hand! On such a crisis as the above, the commission respectfully requested the Rev. Messrs Begg, Guthree, and Macfarlane, of Renfrew, as a very excellent triumvirate to visit the various colonies in question. The only other matter of great public interest, was the report to which reference has already been made on the state of religion. The report was compiled from returns expressly ordered by last assembly to be furnished to a special committee, the various presbyterians connected with their body. It occupied nearly two hours in reading, and, from what we heard of it, seemed not only a valuable, but a most seasonable, document. It having been highly approved of by the committee, it is about to be given to the public. As we have already exceeded our limits, we could not find space to give even an outline of its valuable contents. We may only say that if the free church are found putting into operation the efficient measures therein proposed, and if a gracious Heaven give them its countenance, we are likely to have one of the most important revivals of religion that ever took place in Scotland. Ere long we trust that in this way will the free church of Scotland purify its present lamentable laxity of communion, and wipe away certain aspersions which, not without good reason, have been brought against their existing ecclesiastical communion—such as we would not have expected to exist in a body otherwise so generally pure in doctrine; but which, if we may judge from such movements as the above amougst us, they seem resolved to remove every ground for preferring. Adjourned to meet in Edinburgh, on the 11th September ensuing, on special business.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOVELTIES. — Recently, in the Edinburgh Jury court, a farmer named James Smith, of the parish of Alve, obtained a verdict, with £100 damages, against Mr Alexander Gentle, a minister of the church of Scotland, for words spoken against him from the pulpit during the Sabbath service.—The *English Churchman* calls attention to a notification in "the Newman paper," that ladies "desirous of joining the Sisterhood of Mercy" may address "L. J. M." (Lord John Manners), care of Mr Burns, Portman street, London.

Correspondence.

ALLEGED ABUSE ABUSED.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—If ever there was a production of the human pen that demanded sorrow, shame, and deep humiliation from all the friends of truth and of man, I think it is that with which you have disgraced the last number of the *Nonconformist*, in the first page, on the affairs of Tahiti. Never was there a tissue of grosser ignorance, mistake, misrepresentation, and deceit, than that which your first column contains—and how is it possible that you could not have known this? If to contradict well-authenticated facts—to impeach the missionaries of Jesus—to pervert all testimony for the sake of the accusation—to vindicate, by implication, the work of the oppressor, and to glory in the sufferings of the oppressed, for the sake of supporting a certain theory—be an argument of a blinded understanding or a perverted heart, I leave you to say to whom it now belongs. How long do you intend, sir, to dishonour the sacred cause whose name you have assumed, and to grieve the friends of its interests throughout the land? Be assured you are mistaken in the position you have assumed, and in the course on which you have entered; and the sooner that course terminates, the better will it be for the cause of religion and nonconformity throughout the British Isles. Nonconformists in this and in all parts grieve over your effusions; and the last has inflicted a wound on them, on the cause of missions, and on that of voluntary Christianity, as connected with them, which all your efforts for fifty years would not heal. Most earnestly, sir, do I entreat you to spare the Christian church and the Christian cause the misehief which your representations—or rather, misrepresentations—effect, and no longer act the part of the great "accuser of the brethren." You have done this in various ways too long. Take heed that you are not found on his side at last, and doing work now for future self-recrimination. I cannot but think, that if you are a good man you will be brought to deep repentance and humiliation for the course you are pursuing, and especially for that disgraceful production which forms your last primary article.

Earnestly praying that you may not be left to exemplify the saying of a celebrated statesman, that "God sometimes gives great talents, and Satan their application," I remain, sir, your obedient servant, and much-grieved friend of the cause of nonconformity,

AN INDEPENDENT.

Manchester, Aug. 10th, 1844.

FRENCH AGGRESSIONS IN POLYNESIA.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—The present situation of the far-off isles of Polynesia must awaken the intense sympathies of every true protestant, and every friend of civil and religious liberty, and national independence.

It is much to be feared that the doom of Tahiti is sealed—the golden opportunity is passed. We, who were their natural protectors—England, who was their foster-parent—having refused to protect them, we must leave them to the tender mercies of their conquerors.

My object in writing these lines is respectfully to call your attention to the state of the Friendly islands; as I much fear, if we do not make some attempt to place them in a secure position, they will soon become the prey of French propagandists. They contain a noble population, professing, as you are aware, the protestant faith; and no doubt possessing the same attachment to our country which has been so ill rewarded in Tahiti. Will England refuse to protect them? Shall the protestant missionary have no place of refuge from injury and insult in any of the wide-spread groups of Polynesia? You, sir, possess an immense influence over the minds of the thinking portion of your countrymen; and I should rejoice to see it exercised on behalf of those for I am now pleading. The amiable and kind-hearted native of Tongataboo, or Lifuka, as he looks, with anxious gaze, over the blue expanse of the Pacific, is struck with terror and apprehension at the sight of every approaching sail, not knowing but it may be the bark which conveys the emissaries of France and of Rome, come to shroud his country in midnight darkness, and noviform idolatry.

England ought to be, as in days of yore she was, the great bulwark of the protestant religion the world over. It is unworthy a great statesman to stop to inquire whether an injured party belongs to his own or to another sect. But the kings of the earth, and their ministers, trouble themselves little about any religion, excepting so far as its political bearings are concerned, and as to how far it will contribute to the consolidation of their power.

You, sir, deprecate war; and every reflecting mind echoes your sentiments. It is the greatest of follies, and the greatest of crimes—a grand scheme of tyrants to turn the stream of popular indignation from themselves, and against innocent and unoffending parties. Queen Pomare, certainly, is an object of great sympathy; and it is the duty of our country to offer to her, the benefactress of our countrymen, that asylum which we have never refused, even to the enslavers and destroyers of mankind. But it is not required of us by the laws of morality and justice, to besmear the decks of our war-ships with the blood and brains of our seamen for the purpose of restoring this cruelly injured woman to the possession of her island throne. She was an absolute monarch of her tiny realm, and we have wasted too much blood and treasure in the behalf of such.

With respect to the Friendly islands, all I desire is, that the moral power of this great country may be speedily exerted to save them from experiencing these awful scenes which are now being enacted at Tahiti. Although the war-hounds of France are thirsting for blood, and their number is great, yet, happily for the cause of humanity and civilisation, there must be also a powerful party there who are adverse to a conflict with Great Britain. In all probability the French government would sanction our assuming, by permission of the natives, the protectorate of the Friendly islands. But let the protection be *bonâ fide*—not conquest and enslavement—and let the missionaries take solemn warning from "the voice from Tahiti" (see *Nonconformist*, August 7th), and encourage the most perfect toleration of religious equality.

I cannot conclude this letter without saying a few words on behalf of that worthy and persecuted man—Mr Pritchard. I have no doubt the sole crime he has been guilty of, is the determined spirit he has shown to pro-

tect the rights of the injured Queen and people of Tahiti. I beg to subjoin the disinterested testimony of an American gentleman, who visited the Society Islands two or three years since:—"As we came to anchor we were boarded by Mr Pritchard, British consul, belonging formerly to the missionary corps upon these islands. Mr Pritchard is a man of very amiable character and pleasant manners, and the course he pursues reflects high honour upon the nation he represents. Although nominally pursuing a different vocation from that of a missionary, he has not relaxed his exertions for the welfare of Tahiti."

This witness is true: and his testimony outweighs that of a host of such ruffians as have disgraced the noble tricolour, and done all in their power to alienate the two greatest nations upon earth—the people of France and England. I am, Sir, yours very respectfully,

A FRIEND OF POLYNESIA.

Tynewydd, near Swansea, Aug. 17,1844.

THE "ECLECTIC REVIEW" AND THE NEW QUARTERLY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—As the new Review will, I expect, appear next month, I will mention a plan which a few friends here are prepared to act upon, on its appearance. It is well known that Dr Vaughan's *Quarterly* is intended to take the place of the *Eclectic* amongst the *élite* of the dissenting community, and all true friends of civil and religious liberty will not be doing their duty, if they do not exert themselves on behalf of OUR *Eclectic*. Could not three, four, or five friends club together, and take a copy amongst them? There are very many who could afford to support it in this way. Hoping that all will do their best in this cause, I remain yours, &c.,

LIGNUM.

Harpurhey, Aug. 9, 1844.

The Complete Suffrage Movement.

NATIONAL COMPLETE SUFFRAGE UNION.

Birmingham, August 19.

ON Monday afternoon the quarterly meeting of the National Complete Suffrage Union was held at their office, 37, Waterloo street, Birmingham, the President in the chair; the meeting presented a better attendance than any of the quarterly meetings of the Union yet held.

QUARTERLY REPORT.

The SECRETARY read the following report for the quarter:—

"In presenting their first quarterly report of the current year, the Council have to state that their attention has been chiefly directed,

First, To the elections which have taken place during that period, and,

"Secondly, To the state of the registrations.

"During the months of May, June, and July, vacancies occurred at Exeter, Buckingham, Andover, Launceston, Kilmarnock, Birmingham, and Dudley. In accordance with a rule previously laid down by the Council, and which subsequent experience has clearly proved to be a good one, the only thing done in connexion with these elections, was to publish an address to the electors in the vacant constituencies, earnestly recommending the electors to support no candidate who would not pledge himself to vote for the full, fair, and free representation of the people. At first, these addresses attracted but little public notice, but, latterly, they have been, for the most part, republished by the London daily press, and it is to be hoped that the advice tendered will yet be generally acted on. It is the desire of the Council to see a proper discrimination made between those electors who identify themselves with the 'liberal interest,' refusing at the same time to concede the franchise to every male citizen of twenty-one; and those electors who are identified with that interest, as represented by public opinion; and no means seem better calculated to promote that end than the carrying through the poll fit and proper candidates, selected, nominated, and made choice of by the people, in public meeting assembled. On this principle the Birmingham election proceeded, and while the Council regret that so few of the electors had the moral courage to register their votes on the side of the people, they confidently hope that the same course of action will be followed out hereafter. The single aim of the complete suffrage movement is to obtain the elective franchise to every male citizen of twenty-one—that end they cannot expect to realise, if they encourage, in any shape, or manner, or form, the nomination of candidates who do not heartily entertain, and honestly avow, the principles on which the Complete Suffrage Union is based.

Secondly—The state of the registration. By a recent decision in the Court of Common Pleas, it has been established as law, under the Reform act, that lodgers or householders, paying 4s. a week for a term extending beyond a year, have a legal right to the franchise. The Council have strongly recommended the working classes to avail themselves of this decision, and have been glad to hear that, in many places, they have succeeded in adding considerably to the number of democratic electors on the roll.

The Council, in conclusion, would earnestly call attention to the fact that there is now, in the tract depôt of the Union, 4, Crane court, Fleet street, London, a complete assortment of tracts, ranging in price from 1s. 4d. to 12s. per hundred. These tracts are illustrative of the evil of class legislation, and demonstrative of complete suffrage as the most efficient remedy that can be applied. To promote the circulation of these tracts, the Council contemplate the establishment of sub-depôts at Newcastle, Edinburgh, and Aberdeen."

On the motion of Mr Councillor BALDWIN, seconded by Mr JENKINSON, the report was unanimously adopted.

THE SCOTTISH POLITICAL MARTYRS.

Mr STURGE said, an interesting event was to take place this week at Edinburgh—the laying of the foundation stone of a monument to the Scottish martyrs of 1793-4. They were Thomas Muir, William Skirving, Thomas Palmer, Joseph Gerrald, and Maurice Margarot; and their objects, according to a pamphlet sent me a day or two ago, were to "cooperate with the friends of the people in London, in all proper measures to accomplish an equal representation of the people in parliament," and to "enter into every legal and constitutional measure to obtain a shorter duration of parliamentary delegation." In the report of the trials, some very curious sentiments are given by one of the judges, Lord Swinton, who says:—

"I maintain that it is not only inconsistent with the British constitution, but inconsistent with every constitution or government that ever did exist, or ever can exist, that every mortal who has arms, and legs, and head—and we are all equal—all of like passions and like judgments with one another—that every one of them shall have equal suffrage. In what? Not only in the election of legislators, but of magistrates, of ministers, and of *judges* too" [laughter];

and so on; which clearly shows a pre-determination to convict the prisoners; and they were convicted. They were sentenced—some to transportation for fourteen years, whereupon they broke down and died—and others to the hulks. So far as I can see, these martyrs do not appear to have made use of any illegal means to gain their just rights [hear]. The foundation stone is to be laid by Joseph Hume; and it is somewhat curious to find that several of those—one in particular—who are announced as taking a leading part in the matter, have come strongly out against our movement to obtain for the people those very rights for which those men died [hear, hear].

It is an interesting event nevertheless—it shows the progress of sound opinion, and the complete suffragists of Edinburgh are to take an active part on the occasion. With regard to the suffrage movement, in the present state of public opinion, the principal thing we have to do is, to keep the subject alive, and be in readiness for action when the proper time comes. We are in a fair way of proving that we have influence enough to maintain the rights of the people at elections, and in a short time we shall be able to ascertain what it would cost to contest elections whenever an opportunity occurs to do so [hear]. I believe we shall never get our principles done real justice to, nor fully brought out, till this be done, inasmuch as elections not only afford a fitting time for promulgating our views, but of testing the honesty of those who profess to hold them [hear]. At present, public feeling is comparatively quiet—trade is prosperous, and people are less disposed to move than when it is bad—but I do feel, that under our present system there is no guarantee for permanent prosperity; and, therefore, there is the more necessity that we should devote the present time to prepare for the future [hear].

The SECRETARY having called attention to the fact that the captain of one of the royal mail steamers, between Liverpool and Boston, had introduced the American practice of separating the coloured from the white passengers,

Mr STURGE said the subject was one in which the complete suffragists had a direct interest. Some time ago a man was sentenced to death in the United States for aiding a runaway slave to escape. The Council sent an address to the friends of freedom in America, remonstrating against that unrighteous act, and urging them to do justice to the democratic principles, on which their constitution proceeds, by abolishing slavery. They (the council) did so, not only because slavery was in itself a crime, but because the fact of its existence under a democratic constitution was used by the opponents of political freedom in this country as an argument against the adoption of complete suffrage [hear]. If the distinctions, to which allusion had been made, were permitted to pass with impunity, slavery in America would thereby become more firmly established, and the cause of complete suffrage be still further impeded in its progress. They were bound to remonstrate against the introduction of the practice on other grounds. A very large sum of money was paid by government out of the public purse every year for the carriage of the mail by those steamers; the public, therefore, had good right to complain to government, and urge government to remonstrate with the directors to put a stop to the system at once [hear]. The question of colour was a most important one, and more difficult to be got rid of, than almost any other which entered into the subject of slavery. Such was the prejudice against colour in America, that most of the white population, rather than sit at the same table with a coloured person, would sit with a dog [hear]. He would state a case which occurred last year. A black, or coloured minister of the gospel, came over to this country. The captain of the American packet would not let him have a berth with other passengers, nor mix with them in any way. On his return, he took a cabin passage in the Great Western, which was at once given to him without question as to his colour [hear, hear]. One of the passengers, an American, was booked for a berth in the same state-room with the black. He refused to occupy it on that account, and remonstrated with Captain Hoskens, urging him to remove the black. Captain Hoskens refused to do so [hear], and the American, rather than sleep in the same room with his coloured fellow-countryman, took to a sofa [hear, hear, and a laugh]. The conduct of Captain Hoskens was highly creditable to him, and he (Mr S.) had no doubt but when the fact to which reference had been made, were once known to the public, the directors of the Liverpool company would prevent a recurrence of the evil [hear].

Mr BALDWIN hoped the committee would not lose sight of the matter. The man who made a distinction between the rights of his fellow-man on account of his colour, his country, or his clime, struck at the very root of that cause of an equality of political rights for which they were now contending [hear]. He suggested that the council should make inquiry into the case, and take what steps they might consider necessary in regard to it.

The suggestion was unanimously approved of.

SWEDEN.

Mr WALTER INGLIS called the attention of the council to a most important democratic movement now in progress in Sweden. There was now under discussion in the Swedish chambers, a bill which proposed the enfranchisement of the great mass of the people; and it had every prospect of being carried. It would be rather a humbling thing to this country if Sweden were to take the lead of us in the improvement of political institutions. He would suggest that the council should make inquiry into the subject, and take steps for bringing the merits of the case before the British public. It appeared to him that it would be highly desirable to issue an address to the democrats of Sweden [hear].

Remitted to the council.

THE BIRMINGHAM ELECTION.—It is gratifying to know that the course pursued by the complete suffragists of Birmingham at the recent election, has given the highest satisfaction to the democratic portion of the community in every part of the three kingdoms. The suffragists of Edinburgh were the first to take up the subject; and we are glad to learn that already seven hundred of the electors have subscribed a declaration, tantamount to the adoption of the same policy on the occasion of the first vacancy in the representation of that city. An address to Mr Sturge, approving his conduct at the late Birmingham election, has been forwarded by the Edinburgh Complete Suffrage Union, and does him the highest credit. An intelligent and influential elector in Huddersfield, in writing on the subject, states that the complete suffrage committee there passed a vote of thanks to Mr Sturge, and "also to those electors who so nobly did their duty in voting for him;" adding, "I at the same time feel grieved that any part of the suffrage body could so far have neglected their duty as to vote for any other body, knowing, as they must have known, that both whig and tory are adverse to good and wholesome government." Another suffragist thus writes from Manchester:—

"I am of opinion—an opinion not founded on the impulse of the moment—that no real good will be effected; and I contend that no good has been achieved in reference to the condition of the great mass of the people from the so-called reformers of the last fifteen years; unless the democratic party among the electors are determined to make a stand, disregarding all parties, be they tories or whigs, reformers, free traders, or any other section of political economists, and support, and countenance, and vote for no man who will not give a solemn pledge to advocate, in the House of Commons, for a full, fair, and free representation; and, as a means to secure the same, willing to adopt the plan laid down and acted upon by W. S. Crawford, in the late session, of drawing up the purse strings of the nation, until the people's demands are conceded."

The press, too, has been very decided in favour of the Birmingham democrats, excepting always the party organs, whose censure is praise, and whose praise, like the stormy petrel, always indicates danger.

DUBLIN.—ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION OF MR VINCENT.

On Wednesday night last a densely crowded meeting of the inhabitants of this city was held in the Royal exchange, to welcome Mr Vincent to Ireland, and to listen to an address. Notice of the meeting did not appear till the afternoon, and yet the zeal and enthusiasm of the people could not have been surpassed. Mr Vincent's reception was of the most exciting kind, proving the strong attachment the people of Ireland feel for those of other countries who are struggling for the cause of liberty.

JAMES HAUGHTON, Esq., a highly respectable and influential merchant, and one of the principal leaders of the Anti-slavery, Peace, and Teetotal Societies, was called to the chair. After speaking of the importance of meetings such as were usually held in that hall for the promotion of the above objects, he said he felt great pleasure in having the opportunity to introduce to them one who was well known in his own country as the zealous advocate of democratic principles—one who had laboured long in every good cause, and who had striven to infuse into the working classes a love of education and temperance, that they might be worthy of the liberty he wished them to enjoy—one whose name was well known to them—Mr Henry Vincent [loud and repeated cheering]. He had more pleasure in introducing Mr Vincent, because he, like some of their best-loved leaders, had proved his devotion to the cause of freedom by a long and severe imprisonment in the dungeons of England [deafening cheering, which was repeated again and again].

Mr VINCENT then presented himself, but was greeted with such tremendous bursts of cheers that it was several minutes before he could deliver a sentence. He then proceeded to address the crowded assembly on the great question of liberty, and on the importance of creating amongst the working classes a spirit of independence, intelligence, and sobriety. After expounding the just principles of government, he dwelt upon the reasons which induce the aristocratic and other classes to fear the independent education of the millions, and showed that all improvements in governments ever proceeded from the advancement made by their subjects in intelligence and virtue. He dwelt upon the condition of Ireland—its struggle for freedom, and the magnitude of its great moral reformation under the auspices of Father Mathew. He then appealed to the assembly, in the midst of their struggle for liberty, not to neglect the mental improvement of the people; and concluded a speech that created an enthusiasm we have scarcely

ever seen surpassed, amidst loud cheering and waving of hats, that continued for several minutes.

The Chairman then called upon Mr WEBB to address the assembly, which he briefly did, moving a vote of thanks to Mr Vincent, which, on being carried by acclamation, was accompanied by shouts expressive of a wish that Mr Vincent would address them again, which he promised to do, amidst cordial manifestations of delight. This meeting was altogether of the most gratifying kind. The kindness and zeal of the people knew no bounds, and Mr Vincent was quite overpowered by their warmth of kindliness. On Sunday Mr Vincent was introduced to a large out-door temperance meeting by Father Spratt, which he addressed for a short time. The temperance movement is doing a world of good, and is rapidly improving the condition and character of the people.

EDINBURGH COMPLETE SUFFRAGE UNION.—On Tuesday evening, at the usual weekly meeting of the Union, an address was delivered by Mr James Reed, on the question, whether or not the repeal of the corn laws can be effected without the previous extension of the suffrage? The address was very eloquent, particularly in passages descriptive of the evils produced by the corn monopoly, and the degradation of exclusion from the right of self-government. Mr Reed charged the corn laws with being the source of all the privations of the working classes, and the primary cause of the grinding competition which prevails throughout the whole extent of society. After stigmatising the meanness and imbecility of the electoral body, for permitting the continuance of such a system, he advanced to the conclusion that free trade, and impartial legislation generally, cannot be obtained till the whole body of the people are enfranchised. Several other speakers addressed the meeting, differing on some points, but all agreeing in the main proposition of the lecturer, as to the hopelessness of any agitation for free trade in the present state of the representation.—*Edin. Chron.*

RINGWOOD.—A correspondent writes as follows:—"I take the liberty of informing you that a Complete Suffrage Society is formed in this place. We have disseminated some of the tracts of the Union, the *Nonconformist* is taken in by nearly thirty members, and we add to our numbers at almost every meeting. The subject of the suffrage begins to attract attention here, and I firmly believe if we could get a lecturer in this district, much good may be done, as there are in the neighbouring towns persons friendly to the cause, but who require some stimulus to bring them into action. At a late meeting of our society a resolution condemnatory of Sir James Graham's conduct in the post office affair, was unanimously agreed to."

THE GAME LAWS.—The following paragraph appeared in Monday's *Herald*. As an official or semi-official announcement of ministerial intentions, it must be considered of some importance:—

"It may save both the *Chronicle* and *Times* an infinite deal of declamatory writing as to the origin, effects, and defects of our game laws, to be told that the Home office has for some time past been making very extensive inquiries on the subject, and that there is every reason to believe that another session of parliament will not pass without a complete revision of those laws. We may also add that since Sir James Graham has been at the head of the Home Department, the evidence on which convictions and committals for poaching have been founded, has, in every case of alleged severity, been required by him from the committing and convicting magistrates; and that in not a few cases the term of imprisonment has been shortened, or the immediate release of the convict been ordered by the Home Secretary. On every account, then, it is most desirable that the administration of the game laws during the approaching autumn and winter should temper mercy with justice, and a broad distinction be taken, by magistrates, between poachers from necessity and poachers from idleness and confirmed vicious habits."

THE WEATHER AND THE HARVEST.—The whole of the island appears to have experienced nearly similar weather to the metropolis during the last fortnight; for nearly all the provincial papers complain of the cold and wet, and of harvest operations having been retarded. We hope, therefore, that the advantageous change which has taken place in the weather in the metropolis and its neighbourhood has, in like manner, been general. Monday and the day before, though cold in the morning and the evening, were both fine days, and on Monday a great quantity of wheat, which the previous day had done much to dry, was carried to the south of the metropolis, and probably in many other parts of the country. The wheat is almost all cut in the southern counties, but the late wet weather has constrained the farmer to keep much of it in the field, and some instances, we are told, have occurred of its having begun to grow. There is yet much oats and barley uncut, but should the same weather as we have had this week continue for a short time, both will, we believe, be entirely cut in the southern counties, and the harvest secured. In South Wales, after drought there has been a deluge; but still the grain looked healthy. In Ireland, the story is the same: torrents of rain have fallen about Dublin; and the provincial papers are filled with reports of wet and gloom, and much grain has been laid; but in that state the farmers have been cutting it. In Scotland, it is still the same—the crops are excellent; but the reaping has been interrupted by the wind and the rain, and complaint is also made of cold: however, towards the middle of the week there were glimpses of improvement, and farmers still hoped for the best.

The *Cheltenham Looker-on* says that the Duke of Wellington was seized, on Sunday, with a fit of deafness, of so extraordinary a character as to produce some uneasiness among those more immediately about his person.

General News.

FOREIGN.

FRANCE AND MOROCCO.

Tangier has been bombarded by the French fleet. The accounts received last week announcing the prospect of a satisfactory conclusion of the quarrel between France and Morocco appear to have been altogether incorrect, and were, it is said, invented to answer the stock-jobbing designs of Louis Philippe himself, who is much given to that kind of speculation. The bombardment commenced on the 6th inst. The following meagre particulars are given in the *Moniteur*:—"It was on Tuesday, the 6th instant, about half-past eight o'clock in the morning, that the squadron under the orders of the Prince, at anchor under the walls of Tangier, opened its fire with shouts of 'Long live the King.' In one hour the fire of the place was extinguished, the batteries were dismantled, and the guns dismounted. On our side the loss was not considerable. Notwithstanding the difficulty of the ground, the squadron took its position in a most successful manner. The ship Suffren, commanded by the Prince, anchored in six fathoms and a half, with a rocky bottom, and the position nearest the enemy's batteries was that chosen by the Admiral. The fire, which commenced at half-past eight, was not entirely discontinued until towards eleven o'clock. It continued during this time with order which did not exclude for one moment that steadiness and precision necessary for taking good aim. It was to the accuracy of the firing, as much as to the position chosen by the Prince, that the rapid success is to be attributed. The example given by the Suffren was followed by each of the ships of the squadron. Everywhere on this occasion did officers, seamen, and soldiers, rival each other in ardour and steadiness. The resistance was much more vigorous than was generally imagined; several of the guns on the ramparts did not cease their fire until they were destroyed by our shot. Mr Hay arrived during the action in the Vesuvius, coming from Mogador. In the evening he waited on his Royal Highness the Prince de Joinville, who had an interview with him."

The French lost twenty-five men, killed and wounded, with some slight damage to the French vessels and particularly to the Argus steamer. The loss of the Moors was considerable, according to a letter dated on board a Spanish vessel in the bay. The vessels of different other nations lying in the bay remained passive spectators of the fight, and on the evening of the 6th the French fleet sailed for Cadiz, where they arrived on the 7th, in order to repair all damages. The European quarter of the town was spared. The Prince, it is said, unnecessarily exposed himself during the action. No troops were landed. If, ere the Prince again sailed from Cadiz, he did not receive satisfactory intelligence, he would proceed to bombard Mogador, Sallee, and Larache, but without effecting a landing, or taking possession of any point on the coast. On the 8th the fleet was to sail for Mogador, which it will bombard.

The mystery attending this sudden attack is not, as yet, cleared up. The following vague explanation is given by the *Moniteur*:—

"The French government has received news from Tangier, of the 7th instant, respecting facts announced by the telegraphic despatch given in the *Moniteur* of Thursday. On the 4th, the answer arrived which the pasha of Larache, Sidi Bouselem, had made to the *ultimatum* of France. That reply was not satisfactory: it said nothing of the intended dissolution of the bodies of troops collected on our frontier of Algeria, the numbers of which would be augmented by the arrival of the hereditary prince, with 20,000 or 25,000 men. The answer renewed the promise that exemplary punishment should be inflicted on the Moorish chiefs guilty of the aggression upon our frontier, but making it a condition that Marshal Bugeaud should be recalled. In fine, the part of the letter relative to Abd-el-Kader appeared in truth more satisfactory than we had hitherto obtained, but the style of it was vague, obscure, embarrassed, and full of restrictions. His Royal Highness the Prince de Joinville and M. de Nion, chargé d'affaires of his Majesty, could not regard this reply as acceptable, which appeared to have no object but to gain time. His Royal Highness, conformably to the instructions of the King's government, determined to attack the fortifications of Tangier."

The *Heraldo* says that before the bombardment commenced it was ascertained that, on the contrary, a considerable body of Moorish troops were marching to Tangier, and another large *corps d'armée* to the frontier of Algeria. The *Toulonnais* quotes a letter dated at Tangier on the 2nd inst, which describes the Moors as quite prepared with a deliberate plan of treating their assailants—

"We see them every day," says the correspondent of the Toulon journal, "exercising on the coast their infantry, cavalry, and artillery, to the sound of the *tamtam*, and with banners unfurled. At night they retire to their camp in the mountains. The town seems to have been abandoned by its inhabitants, who have sought refuge in a small wood in the neighbourhood, where they sleep under tents. During the night their fires indicate that that part of the coast, which is protected by a small fort lately erected, is inhabited. The forts and batteries offer an imposing aspect; but the town, situate in a ravine on the verge of the sea, is entirely open; a feeble rampart surrounds it and divides it into two parts; the houses appear to be in a good state of repair, and pretty regular. If we can judge from appearances, the Moors do not intend to oppose a vigorous resistance, but they are determined, as far as we can ascertain, to prevent our landing, which would defeat the object of our expedition, if their opposition proved successful.

"On the 1st of August, at break of day, we saw bands of between 150 and 200 Kaybles descend from the mountains. They were all well armed, and accompanied each by a few horsemen. They advanced to the town gates with the intention evidently of plundering it, but the people within would not allow them to enter the place. Each band had a flag, which was either a rallying emblem, or the indication of their tribes to which they belonged. We are daily expecting to receive orders to commence hostilities, and every preparation has been made on board the ships of attack."

The *Toulonnais* says, that it was thought that Marshal Bugeaud would give up all negotiations with the Moors as soon as he heard of the bombardment of Tangier, and a vessel which arrived at Oran on the 10th, brought the account that, on the previous day, she had heard the roar of cannon in the direction of the Marshal's camp, so that it is probable hostilities have already recommenced. It was reported at Oran that Abd-el-Kader had left the Moorish army, and had gone to the western part of the Moorish territory. According to accounts from Algiers of the 10th inst, the son of the Emperor of Morocco had arrived on the frontier of Algeria, with a column of troops, and established his camp at Kouliad-Si-Mouly-Abderrahman, within four leagues and a half of Lala Magrina. The same letters state that Abd-el-Kader had retired to the west of Morocco. The advices from the camp of Marshal Bugeaud, dated the 5th inst, make no mention of any new engagement. Later accounts say that Marshal Bugeaud has left Lala Magrina for Fez, which he will slowly approach. The Prince of Joinville has orders to bombard all the towns on the coast, but not to remain before any of them longer than two days.

"Before the 15th," writes the correspondent of the *Semaphore*, "France will have on the coast of Barbary eight ships of the line. We have besides, a frigate, La Belle Poule, several steam frigates and corvettes, a great number of steamers of a lesser power, transport corvettes, lighters, and brigs. Since the expedition against Algiers in 1830, France never had so considerable a naval force on the African coast."

The writer for the *Times* says, he asked whether vessels of other countries, especially of Sweden, were to take part in the attack on Morocco; but he received no answer: for he had heard that "exertions are being made 'to unite as much as possible France to all the other maritime powers of Europe;' to advance which project a common attack upon a common enemy would very much contribute."

FRANCE.

The news of the bombardment of Tangier had occasioned much excitement at Paris. On Saturday there was a complete panic on the Bourse, and the funds receded 75 c. This was attributed not merely to the proceedings before Morocco, but to the uncertain state of relations with this country, the visit of Count Nesselrode to London, and various absurd rumours. Among other things it was rumoured that government had given orders for a large portion of the garrison of Paris to hold itself in readiness for embarkation, and that England, with the consent of Russia, had seized upon the Isthmus of Suez.

The bombardment of Tangier has given rise to one or two circumstances, which may tend still further to widen the breach between the two countries. The correspondent of the *Times* observes, that Sir Edward Owen was assured, on the morning of the 5th, that all looked pacific; whereas the communication which induced the Prince to bombard the town had been received on the 4th; this seems to imply either some mental reservation or extraordinary change of purpose. It appears from the *Constitutionnel* and other of the journals of Sunday, that the telegraphic announcement of the bombardment of Tangier was received in Paris on Wednesday, and that it reached the King at Neuilly while at dinner.

"His Majesty (says the *Constitutionnel*) read the despatch, and, folding it up, put it into his pocket with this brief observation, '*C'est bien*' ('tis well). 'This is the truth (says the *Times'* Paris letter) so far as it goes; but the King did not confine himself to that expression: his words were, '*C'est bien. Voila qui fera taire la mauvaise presse*' ('Tis well. Here is something that will silence the wicked, or malevolent, press). Now,' says our correspondent in continuation, 'if the King so expressed himself, and that he did there can be no doubt, his Majesty was rather pleased at the distinction his son had acquired, than shocked at the possible political consequences of his proceedings, for his words convey no feeling of regret or of astonishment, but rather of complacency at the success of an expedition directed with a view to produce the precise effect the attainment of which gave him pleasure that he could not suppress. There is an end, therefore, if all this be true, to the supposition that the bombardment was the Prince de Joinville's own act.'"

The *Times* further says the Lords of the Admiralty have received a despatch from Sir Edward Owen, dated on board the Formidable, August 5th, 1844, [the day preceding the bombardment] in which he expresses his satisfaction at the pacific turn affairs had taken, &c. One strange fact is, that government have held back the despatch relative to the attack on Tangier, and only given a garbled extract from it.

The *Constitutionnel* mentions that orders had been sent to Marshal Bugeaud to march directly upon Fez. An aide-de-camp of the King left the Chateau of Neuilly on Thursday for St Amand, with an invitation to Marshal Soult to return in all haste to Paris. "To-day, a number of seamen were seen in the public promenades, who are on their way from Cherbourg to Toulon, where fresh armaments are about to take place. Reports states that four ships of the line and two frigates were to be immediately armed."

The *Reforme* publishes a private letter from Toulon, of the 13th instant, which states that "a report was prevalent in that town to the effect that a telegraphic despatch had been received commanding the Maritime Prefect to arm forthwith four ships of the line and two frigates. Since yesterday the

greatest activity is observable in the harbour; the telegraph is working from morning to night. Orders have been given to suspend all new constructions, and that the various operatives should be exclusively employed in fitting out the ships ordered for sea."

An event, small in importance out of the boundaries of France, but which within those boundaries excites unbounded attention, is the subject of general conversation at present in Paris. A row has taken place in the far-famed Ecole Polytechnique, the consequence of which is that the whole of the pupils have left the school *en masse*, and the affair threatens to be as hard to arrange as that of either Morocco or Tahiti. In the present instance the war is, however, not carried on against M. Guizot, but against Marshal Soult. The *Gazette des Tribunaux* gives the following account of the affair:—

"All the pupils of the Ecole Polytechnique quitted the school yesterday. Five pupils were to have presented themselves yesterday morning, to be examined by M. Duhamel, the director of studies. These five pupils refused to be examined by M. Duhamel, declaring that he had not been appointed conformably to the established regulations. A report was made of this refusal to the commandant-general of the school, who ordered the five pupils to leave. A deputation of the school waited upon him, and inquired whether this order amounted to an expulsion. The general having replied affirmatively, the pupils declared that the entire school identified itself with the resistance of the pupils, who had been designated by lot to pass their examination yesterday, and that they would all leave with their comrades who were expelled. The pupils thus quitted *en masse*, and the school is now empty."

The *Moniteur* of Sunday contains an ordinance dissolving the school. The ordinance states that in consequence of the acts of disobedience and disorder which have recently taken place, the Polytechnic School is dissolved. The chiefs, professors, examinators, administrators, and other persons employed about the establishment retain their places and emoluments; and another ordinance will hereafter appear relative to the reorganisation of the school. Most of the newspapers take part with the young men in this quarrel with the authorities. It appears that they merely refused to submit to be examined by M. Duhamel, a gentleman every way fitted for the task, but who has been elected in contravention to the laws under which the school was instituted, and who, it is also suspected, would not be quite impartial in his examinations. Even the government papers find it difficult to support the government.

The meeting of the London Missionary Society in Exeter hall, to take into consideration the state of affairs in Tahiti, is the subject of comment in all the Paris papers, but their remarks are rather furious tirades against the "incredible intolerance" and "odious imputations" of the speakers, than reflections on the serious and extended interest taken in the question by the religious public in England. A few of the papers, however, seem to admit the possibility that the French authorities in Tahiti had been in the wrong.

The correspondent of the *Times* mentions a curious trait of the French anti-anglican feeling: in 1832 and 1833, a Mr Pritchard, then in Paris, was charged with some swindling and immoral conduct; and now the Parisians lay that conduct at the door of the Mr Pritchard whom their countrymen have warred against at Tahiti, and who has never been in France at all!

M. Madoz, one of the leaders of the progresista party in Spain, had arrived in Paris, where he expected to be soon joined by Messrs Cortina and Lopez.

The Princess de Joinville was safely delivered of a princess, at Neuilly, on Tuesday the 13th, at half-past 12 at night. Her Royal Highness and the infant princess are both going on favourably. The child was born on the anniversary of the Prince de Joinville's birth-day, who has just entered his twenty-seventh year. She was christened at five o'clock on Wednesday evening, by the name of Frangoise-Marie-Amélie.

The *Vigie de l'Ouest* publishes a letter from the Gambier Islands, dated 25th February, confirming previous reports that Admiral Dupetit Thouars had taken possession of that group in the name of his government. The letter says that the people had embraced the catholic religion, and the chiefs agreed to place themselves under the protectorate of France.

The *Révue des Deux Mondes* seems to think it doubtful if Louis Philippe will pay his intended visit to Queen Victoria: "It cannot be dissembled that the affair of Tahiti has rendered this voyage sufficiently problematical."

ITALY.

The uneasy state of Naples is betrayed in the severe measures taken to suppress popular feeling. "We have under our notice," says a Maltese paper, "two decrees of the 18th and one of the 19th of July, by which the Neapolitan government places the provinces of Calabria Citeriore and Ulteriore Seconda under the immediate power of the military, in consequence of the powerful force of the armed insurgents; authorising them to adopt the most extraordinary and rigorous measures. The simple departure of an individual from his own commune is construed by the local authorities as expressive of a desire to become a delinquent, and suffices for the insertion of his name in the list of those out of the pale of the law; and any one bearing arms in the two provinces will be judged and punished by a council of war, or rather, he will be brought to trial before a drum-head court martial."

SWEDEN.

The correspondent of the *Times*, under date Stockholm, August 2, writes as follows:—"The twenty-five electors of the order of nobility, though themselves conservatives, have, with the view of setting forth their independence, brought in a few moderate liberals to be members of the committees. Among others a Count Hamilton was chosen as president of the most important of the committees (the Constitution committee). As, however, there was not a single liberal among the members of his order, he required that one of his relatives, who is accounted an ultra-liberal, should have a seat along with him. This was not assented to, and, therefore, Count Hamilton resigned his place. Some other noble members of the same committee have likewise withdrawn from the duties to which they were called, because those duties interfered with their private occupations. In consequence of these retirements, the Constitution committee has not commenced its sittings, nor even chosen a secretary. As some noble members of the other committees have declined their election on the same grounds as Count Hamilton, it has become a question in the peasant class whether it would not be advisable to adopt some other mode of forming the committees, so that their operations may not be impeded by obstacles on the part of noble members. In the peasant or agricultural class, some violent speeches have been made against the clergy, particularly against the archbishop, whose congratulatory address has excited considerable dissatisfaction in the two lower classes. He has been compared to Archbishop Gustav Trolle, and pronounced a traitor to his country. A peasant, named Huss, even went so far as to propose the establishment of a general consistory, having for its object to maintain inspection over the archbishop and the whole body of the clergy.

EGYPT.

The following telegraphic despatch has reached the French government; but it needs some further explanation:— "*Alexandria, 27th July.*

"His Highness the Viceroy has just abruptly left Alexandria; declaring that he renounces for ever Egypt and public affairs, and that he retires to Mecca. Ibrahim is at Alexandria; which city is quiet."

The *Malta Times*, under the date of Beyrout, 16th July, makes this statement concerning our relations with Egypt; and the *Morning Post* "has reason to believe it to be correct"—"The Geyser brought us news that Sir H. Hardinge had in three days completed a treaty with Mehemet Ali, that the English government guaranteed to himself, as well as to his descendants, the government of Egypt; and that no other power should interfere with him. In return, Mehemet Ali has treated, that the English government should do as they liked in the country, and to protect all English subjects: he consents, moreover, to allow troops to go through Egypt whenever necessary. The railways from Cairo to Suez are to be commenced without loss of time; and, in fact, the Pacha has become a complete Englishman."

Further accounts from the Mediterranean confirm the story of Mehemet Ali's sudden retirement from the government of Egypt; but, instead of throwing light on the motives, involve them in added obscurity, so much do they vary. All agree in saying that he refused to see any one, or to take any companion. One imputes the flight to fatherly tenderness at the departure of his son and grandson for France.

"Mehemet Ali was unable to sleep that night; and the following morning, on looking towards the sea, he said to his attendants, 'I cannot bear to look at the sea, or at the ships, and I must quit Alexandria.' He immediately set out for Cairo, accompanied by his secretary Rustem."—*Alexandria Correspondent of the Times.*

Others say, that on departing, he exclaimed against "a traitor" in his family; declaring that he would discover him, or retire to Mecca; and mention a rumour that Abbas Pacha and Sherif Pacha had been intriguing. Some fortify the supposition that he only meant to secure the succession:—

"The Pacha declared that he renounces the government of Egypt to his son Ibrahim, and that he is off to Mecca to end his days, taking with him £5,000 as all that he may want."—*Alexandria Correspondent of the Morning Chronicle.*

Here the religious motive is added:—

"It is positively asserted that he has abdicated in favour of his son Ibrahim; intending to repair at once to Mecca, there to end in peace and quiet, amid the consolations of religion, the remainder of his days; but of which abdication Ibrahim pleads ignorance, refusing to act thereon until he receives some more positive command from his father; and Saied Pacha, another son, had been despatched to Cairo to unravel the mystery."—*Malta Correspondent of the same.*

A fifth guess—diplomatic embroglio:—

"It would seem that in consequence of the treaty formed with Sir H. Hardinge, considerable jealousy has been felt; and the consequence has been the resignation of his Highness Mehemet Ali of the reins of government."—*Another Alexandria Correspondent of the Times.*

A sixth—madness:—

"The Pacha, the day before yesterday, lost his senses; two nights running he had not an hour's sleep, and in the morning he ordered his coach to be ready, saying, 'I wish to go to Cairo.' He did this without advising with any one."—*Alexandria Correspondent of the Malta Times.*

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

THE ARCHIPELAGO OF TAHITI.—The Polynesian group, which constitutes the archipelago of Tahiti, and comprises what are termed the Society islands and Georgian islands, consists of twelve islands; viz.—Maitia, Tahiti, Eimeo, Tabon, Enaron, Watyne, Raiatea, Tahaa, Bora-Bora, Toubai, Manpiti, and Tetoua-Roa. Tahiti, the largest of these islands, is somewhat elevated, and, gradually sloping towards the ocean, forms a circular slip of land; it is the only one inhabited, and in which agriculture is carried on. The middle of the islets which encircle it, for there are several, open here and there in large and deep creeks, running to the interior. The island, from north-west to south-east, is nearly forty miles long; the breadth varies from six to twenty-one miles. It extends from 17 deg. 28 min. to 17 deg. 56 min. south latitude, and from 151 deg. 24 min. to 152 deg. 1 min. west longitude. A low isthmus divides it into two unequal peninsulas, of which the larger is round and the smaller oval. The larger is called Tahiti, the second Taia-Rabou. Taiti is the name the islanders give to their island. When Bougainville asked them how their island was named, they replied, "O Taiti"—it is Taiti. Bougainville and several navigators have, therefore, given the name of "O Taiti" (Otaheite) to the queen of Polynesia.—*Simmonds's Colonial Mag.*

CIRCASSIA.—The *Journal des Débats* observes, that the war in Circassia, which has now continued so many years, does not appear yet to be about to terminate in the conquest of the country. On the contrary, the Russians have experienced a fresh defeat at Perdigorok, near Couban. The details of this affair, which appears to have been serious, have not yet been received. Another fact has been announced, which, if confirmed, would be still more serious—the capture of the fortress of Derbend, with its cannon and ammunition, by Schamyl. This Schamyl is a species of warlike prophet, who has for several years governed and led to battle the Lesghis, the Koubitchis, and the other Mussulman tribes of Daghestan. He is the Abd-el-Kader of those countries. Derbend, the capital of Daghestan, is an ancient town, with a population of from 12,000 to 15,000 inhabitants. It is most important on account of its fortifications; the height and thickness of its walls are an object of astonishment, and it was during several centuries the bulwark of Georgia and of Persia against the warlike population of Caucasus. Situate on the Caspian sea, Derbend carries on a trifling trade; but the harbour affords no shelter against the north-west winds, which sometimes drive the waves with extreme violence into the streets of the town. The celebrated Caliph Haroun-al-Raschid resided for many years in Derbend. The Russian army of Caucasus, decimated by disease, by hunger, and by the nostalgia, is in a state of the most deplorable demoralisation. The Russian government has likewise had the imprudence to send there a number of Poles, who have almost all deserted. These Poles have instructed the mountaineers in the art of war, and have given them ideas which are now bearing their fruit. The warriors of Circassia now possess cannon which they captured from the Russians, and they are gaining victories which from time to time astonish Europe. The Circassian war has now endured more than sixty years: it began under Catherine II. When we compare the situation of Circassia, and the results of the war, with those of Algeria, we cannot conceive that a great military power like Russia should not have long since finished with Circassia.

THE AFRICAN GUANO ISLAND.—We find the following interesting communication in the *Leeds Mercury*.

To the Editors of the Leeds Mercury.
Ichaboe, lat. 26. 16 South, long. 14. 57 East,
May 18th, 1844.

"GENTLEMEN—The interest you have always taken in circulating all information calculated to advance the prosperity of the manufactures and agriculture of our country, by means of your widely circulated paper, will, I doubt not, obtain a place in your next publication for my short epistle, especially as it may prevent much extravagant speculation, and consequent ruin to those who know little or nothing of this frightful place.

"Ichaboe has been much misrepresented in all the features that would prompt to judicious action; a description may be useful, and give the speculators and consumers of guano a more correct knowledge of the value of the article, which, by this time, in England, will be in great request. It is a small island on the coast of Africa; and when approached by sea, has the appearance of a promontory. It is in the form of an egg, and measures only 1,200 yards in circumference. The guano commences about six feet above high water, and gradually rises to about forty feet in the centre. It rests upon rocks, and is separated from the continent by a bay of nearly 1,000 acres, in which all the ships (of which there are now forty-five) anchor. This bay is formed by the islands, and two reefs from thence to the north and south, which join the continent. The entrance into the bay is through a break in the reefs, which is very dangerous. The whole has once formed part of the continent, and has been separated by some inundation of the sea, of which there are abundant geological proofs. Since this convulsion the guano has been formed by the dung and decomposition of the seal, the penguin, and the gannet, and must have been thousands of years in accumulating.

"At the depth of forty feet, there are abundance of eggs and skins of gannets and penguins, in a state of great preservation; but there are no stone, sand, or seaweeds, but from the rocks upward an entire bed of ammonical salts and hartshorn, so powerful that I seen men fall as dead when striking into it. This guano is about seven and a half stronger than the Peruvian.

"The seasons are not all known here, no one having witnessed them in the four succeeding months; but we are fearful they will be unfavourable for shipping guano.

"When the guano is dug and bagged, it is taken to the beach, where stages are erected over the rocks to the boats, and by them taken to the ships. These stages are three hundred feet in length, and very expensive. They are formed by erecting shears, and connecting the shears with anchors and cable, a platform is formed by spars and planks, and upon this the men carry the guano on their backs when the weather will permit, which is about four days a week. Every full and change of the moon we have rolling over the reefs that would appal the stoutest of our tars. These last for two or three days, not only suspending all work, but undoing a great deal of what has been done. Yesterday the rollers came in early in the morning, and drove some of the ships from their anchorage, creating the greatest dismay amongst the captains and sailors. The Guernsey, Lilley, an excellent vessel, and loaded, was

soon upon the reef, and though more than twenty boats were out to assist, it was of no avail—before night she was a total wreck, within a short distance of our ship. The crew were saved, but it cost the lives of two brave fellows from the Charles, of Liverpool, who were upset and lost. This day the sea is very unruly, and has swept away fifteen out of eighteen stages, besides destroying many of the loading boats. The four previous days were calm and hot, and now the thermometer is seventy in the shade, without a breeze, though the stunning effect of the rolling is much more terrific than the thunder storms of the north.

"I have been at many islands on this coast, and also on the continent in search of guano and gold dust, and have found both in small quantities and inferior qualities, that it has not been worth the trouble of shipping home. Here there is no rain, which makes the guauo valuable, as at Angra Peguna. Many thousands of tons have been taken in, and cast away when they discovered the rains had caused fermentation, and destroyed the properties of the guano. It is clear, therefore, that it can only be obtained where there is not any rain falls, and then it must be upon islands formed by the sea fowls, as they will not go on to the continent in great numbers, on fixed places, so as to procure any quantity of guano. My conclusion, after much search and thought, is, that there is very little guano in the world, and that, if the farmers should expect it, they will be deceived. This island has been worked four months, has loaded 100 ships, and is now about one-third gone. There are Hottentots, lions, tigers, and wolves, in abundance, but they do not trouble us unless we encroach on their dominions. The Hottentots are a harmless and, in many respects, a virtuous set of people. I have frequently been with John de Grass, the king of this district of the continent, and I have found him and all the tribe as much superior to historical representation, as in many respects the comforts of civilised life are exaggerated.

"I am fearful that a great sacrifice will be made in this place—upwards of 1,000 persons from England, living for the time without the law of God or their country, produce much anxiety: several rebellions have taken place, but the Thunderbolt steamer man of war was here last week, and restored order, but the very day she left the men declared their reign of power to have commenced. We repressed them by prompt measures, and sent two of the ringleaders to St Helena. Nothing short of want could ever induce a man, who knew this horrible place, to come here. Hoping this may prevent the credulous, and especially the honest adventurer, from coming here when there will be no guano, or, when there is, he may avoid the horrors which I have endured, being by day and by night in fear of coming to an untimely end.

"'England, with all thy faults, I love thee still.'

"I remain, yours respectfully,

"J. LEES."

CAPTAIN F. A. D'AGUINO, commanding the Portuguese ship Margarida, has been found guilty by the council at Batavia of having carried on the slave trade, and has been condemned to five years' imprisonment, and to twenty years' banishment from the Dutch East India possessions.

A letter from Florence, of the 3rd, states that the body of Joseph Buonaparte was deposited on the 3rd in the vaults of the church of Santa Cruz, the temple of honour of the great men of Italy. He is said to have left 15,000,000f. to his widow and daughter, who is married to her cousin, Prince de Musignano, son of Lucien.

Just after the conclusion of the riots in Philadelphia, a bull of the Pope, denouncing Bible societies, arrived in the United States, and has caused fresh excitement.

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN PERSIA.—The *Univers* mentions that, since the Russian minister at Teheran, M. de Medem, had prevailed upon the Persian government to banish the catholic missionaries, religious discord prevailed among the Christians of Aderbidjan. Two Nestorian clergymen, and several other persons, who had embraced the catholic faith, had been imprisoned, bastinadoed, and fined; and the people were roused to a state of cousiderable exasperation against the American methodists, who were known to be the promoters of the persecution (?)—*Times.*

DETENTION OF DR WOLFF.—Advices from Constantinople, July 17, say "that a letter had been received from Dr Wolff, announcing his detention by the Ameer of Bokhara, under the following circumstances:—The Bokaree envoy, who, it was said, was to have accompanied Dr Wolff to England, had been arrested on his road from Persia at Meshed, by the Ameer of that place, as a hostage for the Doctor's safe delivery from the hands of the Ameer of Bokhara; and the latter, on hearing of this act, had declared that the Englishman should not depart until the Bokharee envoy had been set at liberty. Such, it is said, are the main statements in Dr Wolff's letters, dated Bokhara, May 12; further, that it is probable, since the Ameer of Bokhara did not appear to be personally hostile to Dr Wolff, and the Ameer of Meshed was known to be actuated by friendly motives towards him, we may soon hope to hear of his safe departure from Bokhara."

The *Augsburg Gazette* of the 6th inst. publishes a letter from the frontiers of Italy of the 31st ult., which would appear to indicate that M. Castillo, the Spanish agent, sent to arrange the religious differences that had arisen between Spain and the holy see, was not likely to succeed in his mission. He had hitherto vainly solicited an audience of the Pope, and had been told that no reconciliation was possible, unless the nomination of the bishops was accorded to the court of Rome.

SINGULAR DEATH.—A provincial journal gives the following strange story:—A fisherman of Billiers (Morbihan), named Hurmant, while engaged in shrimping, a few days since, saw at the bottom of his net a small sole struggling to escape. Both his hands being engaged with the net, the ingenious idea occurred to him of securing his prey with his teeth. On opening his mouth, the fish, as if seeing a door of escape, made a spring, and went clear into the man's throat, where it stuck fast. The man made various efforts to draw it back, and endeavoured, by drinking water, and even oil, to make it pass into his stomach, but in vain; he was seized with cerebral congestion, and expired.—*Galignani.*

EARTHQUAKES.—Letters from Constantinople state, that there have been some terrible earthquakes in Persia; Tabriz, Teheran, and Ispahan equally felt them. Kiashar, Mana, and various other cities, towns, and villages, were more or less overthrown, leaving many inhabitants buried under the ruins.

A CHILD BURIED ALIVE.—An instance of the evil of too precipitate interment occurred a few days ago at Arles. After the burial of a child, the sexton, who remained alone to finish the filling up of the grave, heard a cry issue from the coffin. He immediately took it up, and, without opening it, carried it out to the house of the mother. The lid being taken off, the poor child was found alive, and is now completely recovered. Not long ago, in making a grave in the same cemetery, a coffin was by chance broken into, and it was found that the occupant had revived after burial, and had gnawed the flesh of both the wrists before life was finally extinguished.

CANNIBALISM ON THE COAST OF AFRICA.—A gentleman in the African trade, who has been many times on the coast, informs us that the horrid practice of cannibalism exists amongst some of the negro tribes to an extent of which Europeans have no conception. He informs us that the people of Bonny, who are at war with a neighbouring tribe, invariably eat their prisoners, and are themselves eaten when taken prisoners; and mentioned to us the particulars of the murder and devouring of a native princess, which occurred during the present year, on a part of the coast much frequented by European ships. These dreadful facts give a double interest to the efforts which are making by Mr Jamieson and others to introduce the commerce and arts of Europe in Africa, and to prepare the way for civilisation and Christianity, which alone can put an end to such inhuman practices.—*Liverpool Times.*

FEMALE OURAN-OUTANG.—The *Salem Gazette* mentions the arrival at that port of a female ouran-outang in a ship from Africa. The animal, which is stated to be very docile and intelligent, had attracted much attention. In the course of the voyage she had greatly amused the sailors by her pranks. On one occasion, having seen one of the crew employed in painting, she watched her opportunity, and ran aloft with the paint pot and brushes, and, determined to display her powers on canvas, she daubed upon one of the sails a series of figures, such as, it may be safely said, were never attempted by any human artist. She is fond of the unfeminine accomplishment of smoking cigars, and she puffs away at the weed greatly to the delight of her Yankee visitors. It is said that she is even polite enough to hand her cigar to any gentleman near her whose appearance is sufficiently prepossessing to win her favour. She is also something of a housewife, and a disciple of the manual labour school; for she can help herself to coffee, and draw water from the pump as readily as any of her more favoured human sisterhood.

INUNDATION IN POLAND.—The account from Kirlin says that the Vistula has risen to a greater extent than at any time during the last hundred years. It is impossible to say how many thousand villages may be inundated by the mighty river, in its long course from Cracow to Dantzic. Above and below Calon, a hundred towns and villages are as in a sea, and the inhabitants have been forced to take refuge on the roofs, on trees, or on some neighbouring hills.—*Hamburgh Papers, Aug.* 9.

HER MAJESTY.—The daily bulletins of the state of her Majesty's health have been discontinued. Blessed with a good constitution, her Majesty is too grateful to conceal it, although against the established usage of fashionable life, or rather, we should have said, fashionable follies. The infant prince is also doing well.

HER MAJESTY'S AUTUMN EXCURSION.—Orders have been given for the immediate equipment of the royal steam yacht Victoria and Albert. She has accordingly been masted, &c., and received on board her fuel. Her captain, Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence, had arrived from Cowes (where he has taken temporary lodgings), for the purpose of hastening her outfit; and the yacht will in a few days make a trial cruise, having been furnished with new engines and boilers. Rumour states the 5th of September as the contemplated period of her Majesty's embarkation for summer cruising. The iron steamer Dwarf, Lieutenant Chamberlain, from her small size and light draught of water, is selected as a tender to the yacht, to convey her Majesty up narrow rivers, or where the Victoria could not by possibility reach.—*Brighton Gazette.* [Rumour has also been busy in arranging that the Queen is to visit Ireland this year, on the strength of the liberation of Mr O'Connell, whose sentence the same veracious authority asserts, will be remitted by government soon after the decision of the House of Lords.]

PARLIAMENTARY CHANGE.—From the commmencement to the conclusion of the late session of parliament there have been 18 changes among the different constituencies, and the elections have left the relative strength of the different parties in exactly the same state. The ministers lost Horsham, and gained Birmingham. The number of changes in 1841 were seven, in 1842 forty-three, in 1843 fifteen, and in 1844 eighteen, making in all eighty-three since the general election in 1841.

COUNT NESSELRODE repaired to Brighton on Tuesday, and took up his abode at Pegg's hotel. It was supposed that he would stay for about six weeks, as he had placed himself under the care of Dr Franz, a resident physician; but on Thursday the Count returned to town, stopping at the Russian ambassador's. He has since returned to Brighton.

THE DUKE OF SUSSEX'S LIBRARY.—Among the costly and remarkable manuscripts lately belonging to the late Duke of Sussex, and sold last week, was one that fetched no less a sum than £111. It was entitled Pentateuchus Hebraicus et Chaldaicus, MS. of the 13th century, upon vellum; written in the Spanish character, in three columns. It has illuminations at the commencement of each book. It is in an old, ornamented, Venetian binding, with gilt. This is unquestionably one of the most splendid Hebrew manuscripts ever executed. Its beauty is not to be excelled, and the accuracy is held to be equal to the beauty of the manuscript's execution. On Saturday, at the sale, lot 1,255, Prynne's Collection of English Records, 3 vols., extremely rare, was knocked down to Messrs Payne and Foss for £155. The produce of the whole of the third part of this extensive and valuable library is £2,093 12s. 6d.; that of the first (theological) part, £6,417 15s. 6d.; and that of the second part (manuscripts), £5,153 1s. Thus the grand total is £13,664 9s.

BANK OF ENGLAND.—Quarterly average of the weekly liabilities and assets of the Bank of England, from the 18th day of May, 1844, to the 10th day of August, 1844:—

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Circulation..	£21,324,000	Securities..	£22,908,000
Deposits	14,090,000	Bullion	15,579,000
	£35,414,000		£38,487,000

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—FIRST EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF MEDICINE, 1844.—The following candidates have passed this examination:

FIRST DIVISION.—Bompas, Joseph Carpenter, University college; Cadge, William, University college; Colborne, William Henry, University college; Copeman, Arthur Charles, King's college; Duncan, Peter Martin, King's college; Elam, Charles, Leeds School of Medicine; Evans, David Peter, King's college; Fotherby, Henry Isaac, Guy's hospital; Greenwood, William Henry, Guy's hospital; Grimsdale, Thomas Frederic, University college; Hicks, John Braxton, Guy's hospital; Mason, Thomas Peter, Original school, Peter street, Dublin; Matthew, Charles Reve, University college; Ody, John, King's college; Radcliffe, Charles Bland, Leeds School of Medicine; Roughton, James J., King's college; Wiglesworth, Henry, University college.

SECOND DIVISION.—Cowell, Charles, University college; Drury, James Samuel, adjoining St George's hospital; Elliott, John Alexander, adjoining St George's hospital; Martyn, Patrick, School of Physic in Ireland; Mason, John, King's college; Monckton, Stephen, King's college; Morris, John Griffith, University college; Ramskill, Jabez Spence, Guy's hospital; Ricards, John B., College of Surgeons in Ireland.

POST-OFFICE ESPIONAGE.—A Hamburgh correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle*, apparently well acquainted with the practices of our government in the way of letter-opening, writes as follows on the subject of the reports recently presented to parliament:—

"The Lords' report says—'It is in evidence that the bags have been sometimes detained and examined, upon a supposition that letters from them may have been abstracted; no letters from such bags have been opened.' I do not clearly understand this, but this I understand, that two letters of my own now before me, with the foreign post-mark upon them, were given up to me, not by any one at the post office, or any one connected with the foreign office, but by an authority of the foreign government to which these letters related, and who received them from England!

"It further states—'That it is true Mr Mazzini's letters were opened; certain parts of the information thus obtained were communicated to a foreign government, but without the names or details that might expose any individual then residing in the foreign country to which the information was transmitted to danger.' This is perfectly untrue. I hold now in my possession from that government copies of such extracts. Here, again, is a play upon words—the extracts without name (in some cases) separated, with the names upon another slip, no doubt put in by accident, or found its way with the extract through some some invisible power. It is true the parties named were not at the time in this state, but it is also true when they unsuspectingly returned, they were seized, and are now loaded with irons in a loathsome dungeon! I will simply ask, is this the only instance of communicating with this state? No. This government was informed of every transaction that could be taken from letters, of what took place between the parties in England, at the Ionian Islands, and other places, and this will account at once for the numerous arrests at various times. More than this, at the summary trials of these indivi'uals, the strongest evidence produced against them was these very extracts.

"Let us now go back to the Polish revolution, and ask how was it possible that the Russian government obtained such universal knowledge of the correspondence carried on with England, and became so minutely acquainted with every shipment of arms, orders that were given for them, even to the Birmingham houses, the manner of packing, &c.? This was known to the government as precisely as had the orders been from them: and this enabled them to order the seizure, both in Austria and Prussia, of certain quantities of sugar hogsheads and pipes, &c. How did Russia obtain this information? From the letters that were opened by order of the Secretary of State.

"As I intend publishing at large all the proceedings that took place during that period, with the full extracts of the letters, with dates and names, as well as other matter relative to that period, I shall only say that hundreds of men and women were seized, whipped, and transported to Siberia, in consequence of such information."

REGISTER! REGISTER!—Saturday, 24th of August instant, will be the last day (the 25th, named in the act, falling on a Sunday), for serving notices of objection on persons improperly inserted or retained in the list of voters for counties or boroughs, and for sending new claims to overseers in boroughs, to correct the omissions or mistakes made by them in their lists. The act further requires the overseers to publish the lists of such claimants, and of such persons objected to on or before the 1st day of September; and on or before the 29th of August they must deliver to the clerk of the peace, the copy of the register, the list of claimants, and the list of persons objected to; besides which, they must attend the barristers' courts, and produce the original notices of claimants and objections, and an account of the expenses incurred by them in making out such lists.

WARLIKE SYMPTOMS.—At Portsmouth one circumstance is stated as certain, and which looks like preparation for an emergency—namely, that an inquiry has been sent to this and other ports to ascertain how early six sail-of-the-line could be at Spithead ready for sailing orders. It is also certain that the experimental brigs will not be commissioned until the matters now before Her Majesty's government respecting the French aggressions are settled. The Collingwood, 80, Captain Smart, is still at Spithead, awaiting sailing orders. Her officers are in doubt as to whether they will sail for Tahiti or Tangier.

APPLICATION FOR A WARRANT TO APPREHEND LOUIS PHILIPPE.—On Wednesday, at the Mansion house, a military-looking man, named Bichen Hilton, who stated that he was a Frenchman, proceeded to read to Sir John Pirie, the sitting alderman, a sort of speech from a written paper. He commenced by saying that he was well known to the French government and the French embassy; that in France he was, in 1830, colonel of the 65th regiment of the line; that he raised, at his own expense, and paid from his own pocket, the two regiments called *Volontaires de la Charte*, and in other respects contributed to the downfall of Charles X., and the establishing Louis Philippe on the throne of France, who had thus become his (complainant's) debtor to the amount of £6,000. Louis Philippe was well aware that he had aided in leveling his road to the steps of the throne, and at first duly acknowledged it, but when he got more firmly established he forgot the claim, and, on pressing for it, he was banished. Alderman Pirie wished complainant to discontinue reading, and say, briefly, what he wanted. Complainant: A warrant to apprehend Louis Philippe, as soon as he lands in this country, for a debt of honour, amounting to £6,000. Ald. Pirie: The King of the French will not be here for a month, but we cannot interfere in the matter. You must apply to a civil court. The applicant then left the court, saying he would take the magistrate's advice.

THE WESLEYAN CONFERENCE.—Among the leading topics which have engaged the attention of the conference, we may mention the following:—The denominational fund for educational purposes, including a grant from the centenary fund, amounts to about £12,000 contributed or promised. There had been 110 candidates for training, as masters or mistresses, 42 of whom had been accepted, and sent to the Glasgow Normal Seminary. Since August last about 13 had finished their preparatory course, and had been sent to different places, and there were a number of applications which would be made in the course of a few months. There had been an increase, during the year, of 143 Sunday schools, and 15,629 scholars. Of week day and infant schools there were 183 for boys, 109 for girls, and 40 for infants, containing 13,138 boys, 8,776 girls, and 3,349 infants: making a total of 25,463, and an increase of 4,659 children. A long discussion took place, before the reception of the report, on the proposed junction of the general chapel fund with the education fund, as recommended by the select committee of ministers and laymen, which met in London towards the close of last year, and the proposition was ultimately agreed to. At the meeting of the missionary committee, it appeared that there will be a deficiency in the receipts, as compared with the expenses for the current year, of £12,000, the estimated receipts being £98,000, and the probable expenditure £110,000. Some discussion took place as to the propriety of reducing the number of missions, but the resolution was at length carried, pledging the connexion to raise the required amount within the year. At one of the early meetings of the conference, Dr Bunting announced that the late Mr H. More, the only surviving friend and executor of Mr Wesley, had bequeathed to the conference the pocket bible used by the founder of Methodism in field preaching, and presented to him by Mr Wesley. This interesting relic will become a regular accompaniment in the transfer of the president's seal and keys of office. The examination of the claims of probationers for the ministry, the filling up of vacancies occasioned by deaths, &c., and inquiries into the conduct of ministers, have, as usual, occupied the attention of the conference. One of the candidates, it was stated, had for several years been a Benedictine monk, who had renounced the profession of Roman Catholicism recently at Liverpool, and who gave what were considered satisfactory proofs of the sincerity of his conversion, and his cordial approval of the principles of Wesleyan Methodism. Fifty-seven ministers were ordained. The increase in the number of church members is at home (including 505 in Ireland), 6,979; and on the mission-stations, 6,253; making a total of thirteen thousand, two hundred, and thirty-two. Death has during the year summoned twenty-four ministers from the home and foreign work to their eternal rest; but an amply sufficient number of young men have been duly recommended to the conference as candidates for the ministry.

Postscript.

Wednesday, August 21st.

THE ATTACK ON TANGIER.

The *Times* of this morning contains several letters from eye-witnesses of the bombardment of Tangier, giving details of the attack, which it precedes with the following remarks:—"The Prince de Joinville has had a formidable arena on which to display his naval talents for the first time. British vessels were near enough all the while to watch the proceedings, and, of course, had on board a number of nautical critics, who, as Englishmen, were not too much disposed to see skill or perfection in French gunnery, or the Prince's admiralship. And whether the latter was nervous before such formidable judges, or anything else was the cause, it would certainly appear that not much effect was produced by the French fire upon the fortifications. Only one gun in the main battery was dismounted, and the loss of lives on shore did not exceed seven or eight. The Moorish garrison behaved well, stood to their guns, behind their crumbling fortifications, to the last moment, so as to win the praises even of the Prince. The Moorish general distinguished himself by his promptness and spirit.

"The Prince is much criticised for having 'taken his position of attack so leisurely,' although the Moors were at the very time at their guns. The French ships were for a considerable time in a raking position, and, had the enemy opened fire, they must have suffered greatly. And the French display of gunnery throughout was not such as to give satisfaction to the English critics who were on the spot; or rather, we should say, it gave them considerable satisfaction. The whole affair, to use our correspondent's words, showed the 'vast disparity in every branch of naval efficiency between ourselves and the French.'"

The following is the account given by a British naval officer, which will account for the warlike and objectionable tone of the letter:—

"Warspite, Tangier Bay, Tuesday, August 6.

"I begin my letter at the same time as the warlike Prince de Joinville opens his fire upon this defenceless (comparatively speaking) place. At six o'clock this morning his squadron of three line-of-battle ships and a large frigate of 60 guns were taken in tow by the like number of steamers and also two brigs; besides these there were four more steamers, making in all 14 French pendants. The ships of the line and frigate were towed to a short gunshot distance from the devoted forts, if they may be called so. The brigs anchored off the beach to fire at the detached forts. The steamers are now cruising round us, out of gunshot. They are still at it. I was speaking with a lieutenant, who gave it as his opinion all would be amicably settled. Just as he said the words, broadsides from all the ships were poured into the place, and instantly returned by the forts from a few guns. It is now two hours since the firing began, the Frenchmen keeping up a continued blaze, and for one hour not a shot has been fired by the Moors. They have all the time been firing from, I should think, a dozen guns, and no more. The place is becoming a mass of ruins, so far as we can see, but it is nothing more than exercise for their men; they may have lost two or three men, but certainly not more, and not a rope or spar has been shot away in any of them. A steamer has just passed us, and she has one shothole just above the water line, and two have struck her in the stern. She was hankering round a fort a long way off, and they served her with a shot. The "grand nation" having nothing to boast of; they took up the best positions with an overpowering force against a savage and barbarous people, whose only force lies in the madness of fanaticism. I leave them still firing. The Vesuvius (from Mogadore) has just hove in sight, so I shall keep this open till the place is taken, or as the case may be. I am obliged to close, as the steamer is off. It is now five o'clock and the French ships have hauled out of harm's way; I may say given it up—not game to land. The town is very much knocked about. Such a display of lubberly conduct as the French have shown to-day is beyond belief; their steamers running foul of different ships—from bad management the line of battle-ships presenting their bows and sterns to be raked, and their bad gunnery has made us laugh. Little do they know the feeling against them by our men; could they be let loose the Crapauds would rule this day! We despise them for their conduct to-day, in firing at a defenceless town, as much as we laugh at their lubberly way of going to work."

From the other correspondence we select one or two interesting extracts. The damage done appears, after all, to have been comparatively small:—

"All the consular houses, with the exception of two (American and Sardinian) suffered damage, but not to any very serious extent. The consular houses, being the only large buildings in the place, were naturally the most exposed to injury from casual shots. The house of our consul, being the very nearest, received five shots, two only of which did damage of importance. The French consulate did not escape.

"The Vesuvius, which has made two trips to Tangier since the day of attack, and had officers on shore on the last visit, brings more certain information, by which it appears that the damage is not so very great as had been supposed, and that but one gun in the main battery had been dismounted. The walls, from being in a weak and decayed condition, are of course greatly shattered in a few places; but, if those very batteries were in the possession of skilful artillerymen, they are, notwithstanding, in their present state still capable of a formidable defence against such opponents."

The reason why the French did not land and take possession of the works, was probably that the shore was crowded by many thousands of Kabyles, who would have given them a warm reception. Meanwhile communication with the shore is not suspended:—

"The authorities at Tangier notified to the neutral consuls two days ago, that they might land, as there was no longer any danger. The town was quite tranquil yesterday morning; the only excess committed was the pillaging of the Portuguese consul's house, the persons left in charge having abandoned it."

At the time of the action the bay of Tangier was enlivened by the presence of vessels of war under no less than seven different national flags—British, Spanish, Danish, Swedish, Sardinian, American, and Tunisian. The French squadron had proceeded west, probably with the design of attacking Mogadore, which promises to be a more difficult enterprise than that at Tangier:—

"At Larache and Rabat, as well as at Mogadore, everything is unfavourable to operations by large vessels, and the swells are so very great near Mogadore, that even at this season it is not considered safe to lie off the coast. A gentlemen who has been lately at Mogadore, says that the fortifications are not so contemptible as imagined. They have some good brass guns, a present from Holland some years ago."

The Sultan is still at Rabat, where Mr Hay left him. We have the following particulars of the movements of the Moors:—

"Cidi Mohammed, the Sultan's eldest son, and whose station is Fez when his father resides at Morocco, was, by the last authentic accounts, at Taza. He had been ordered from Fez, with a large force, to the Algerian frontier, for the purpose of quelling the ardour of the Moors; but on the receipt by the Emperor of new aggressions, as he called them, on the part of the French, the Sultan directed him to remain at Taza till further orders. Mulai Sulieman, one of the younger sons, arrived within the last two days at Tangier with a force.

"Cid Mohammed Ben E'Drees, the prime minister, is said, by a gentleman who lately saw him at Morocco and Rabat, to be a very clever man, with a countenance highly expressive of intellect."

LISBON.—Advices from Lisbon of the 14th, state a series of illegal acts on the part of the government prepared the way for the promulgation of an ordinance on the 9th inst, signed by the Queen, and countersigned by the ministers, which is thus characterised by an ex-minister of Portugal, the Viscount Sa da Bandeira:—"This decree, abrogating the constitutional charter, places the nation in a similar situation to that in which it stood in 1828, in consequence of the destruction of the fundamental law of the state."

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—NON-CONSUMPTION OF EXCISABLE ARTICLES.—The usual meeting took place at the Conciliation hall on Monday, R. Dillon Brown, Esq., M.P., in the chair. After the chairman had addressed the meeting, a vote of thanks to Mr Smith O'Brien, for his valuable services in connexion with the parliamentary committee, was passed with acclamation. Several sums of money were handed in, amongst which were, £200 from Halifax, Nova Scotia; £35 from Liverpool; £125 from Montreal; New Brunswick, £100; St John's, £140; and New Orleans, £242. Mr M'NEVIN brought forward a report from the general committee, on the manner in which bills are hurried through parliament. He took occasion to animadvert, with much severity, upon the legislation, regarding Irish matters, in the imperial parliament, during the last session, and contended that these proceedings furnished the best reasons for their adherence to the repeal cause. He concluded with a significant warning to the aristocracy of this country, to beware how they opposed the will of the people. Mr D. O'CONNELL, jun., read the weekly report from the repeal prisoners, in which it was stated that they were all well, and full of hope. He could state it to be the opinion of Mr O'Connell that the association should take steps to get as many persons as possible *to take the abstinence pledge for a limited period, namely, until the repeal of the union.* Mr O'Connell had consulted Father Mathew, who approved of the limited plan for those who would not take the pledge for life. Mr Smith O'Brien, upon his return from the country, would probably shape a motion for an aggregate meeting at Clontarf, or some other suitable vicinity, for administering the repeal total abstinence pledge. He had also reason to know that Mr O'Connell concurred in another suggestion of Mr Smith O'Brien's, to have a pledge taken as universally as possible *against the consumption of tobacco* in any shape until the repeal of the union. This pledge, if generally taken, would have a great effect on the minds of British statesmen in favour of doing justice to Ireland. He knew that it was the intention of Mr O'Connell himself, upon the 30th of May, 1845, to institute a pledge for *the non-consumption of excisable articles in Ireland*, and also a pledge for the non-use of any article not of Irish manufacture [cheers]. Mr H. Grattan then addressed the meeting at great length upon a variety of topics. The amount of the rent for the week was stated to be £1,125.

On Monday the Prince of Prussia visited the Duke of Wellington at Strathfieldsaye, and was yesterday received in state by the Vice-chancellor and members of Oxford university. He visited the various objects of interest connected with the college.

"General Tom Thumb" was taking a drive near Clifton on Sunday afternoon, in an open carriage, accompanied by his father, his guardian, and his preceptor, Mr Sherman. The General and the latter were on the driver's box, and on descending a steep hill, the horse took fright, ran at the top of his speed, and dashed against a high stone wall with such force as to break his neck, and shiver the shafts and a portion of the carriage to atoms. The two inside gentlemen escaped with a few slight bruises. Mr Sherman had seen the approaching danger, and held the General firmly in his arms, and the moment the concussion occurred he cleared the horse and wall, the latter nearly nine feet in height, and landed safely in the adjoining field, preserving his charge harmless.—*Globe.*

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

—	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour
English ..	2210		1650			
Scotch....						
Irish			3510			
Foreign ..	3500	7070	17310			

No alteration in price.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Replies to correspondents deferred until next week.

Terms for advertising in the *Nonconformist*.

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The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 1844.

SUMMARY.

THE tone adopted by the *Times*, in its leading articles on Monday and Tuesday—the fact that the underwriters at Lloyd's have, in some cases, demanded increased premiums upon the risks they have entered into, to guard against the contingency of war—the bombardment of Tangier by the Prince de Joinville—and the tone taken by the supporters of Christian missions—point more directly than we could wish, to the probabilities of a rupture. We have still some hope in the caution of our present government—a caution forced upon them by the difficulties and the dangers in which war would involve the present aristocratic system. We fancy, too, that Louis Philippe will be too wise to risk an encounter with British power; seeing that his seat upon the throne of France is not so firm as that European war might not, in some of its vicissitudes, jerk him off. We wait with anxiety every day's tidings, straining to catch a gleam of light through the thick clouds with which the political firmament is hung. May He who rules the destinies of nations avert from us the calamity which seems all but inevitable!

The present times bring with them not merely their dangers, but their duties. Something might be done to arrest the approach of hostile collision between England and France by the expression of a sound and enlightened public opinion on the question. Deep and unfeigned, therefore, is our regret that the London Missionary Society have sent forth a cry which, if fully responded to, will create all but insuperable obstacles to a pacific adjustment. On Wednesday last a meeting of the directors and friends of the society held a public meeting at Exeter hall, at which there was something more of menace and defiance than we deem to be quite in keeping with missionary objects. Nor is the dissenting press backward in fanning the lighted spark into a flame. Could the wishes of these parties be realised—were ministers, acted upon by opinion out of doors, to demand of the French, as an *ultimatum*, the surrender of their protectorate of Tahiti—a month would not elapse before the recall of our ambassador from Paris. Then would come war—millions of treasure wasted—rivers of blood poured out as a libation to lawless passions—every social improvement checked—political reform rendered hopeless for years to come—Europe once again set in a blaze—and all for what? To protect the protestant missions against the designs of jesuits. What! have these men no confidence in truth—no faith in the God of truth? Must they be lifting up their hands, armed with offensive weapons, to strike down their misguided fellow-creatures for Christianity's sake? Truly our ears tingle with the blush of shame that protestant dissenters should so far have forgotten themselves. We have remarked upon this subject in another place, and therefore, lest our strong feelings should find too strong an expression, we must drop the matter for the present week.

The news from the Mediterranean is startling. Tangier has been bombarded by the French squadron, and Mehemet Ali has abdicated the throne of Egypt, and expressed his intention of retiring to Mecca. The cause for this strange freak is involved in mystery. Those who know the old Pacha best, suspect him least of superstitious tendencies. Certainly his course of life has been one which might not unnaturally terminate in remorse. A bold and able, but unscrupulous chieftain—too civilised for barbarous life—too barbarous for complete civilisation—his ambition, whilst often subservient to the interests of his people, was utterly reckless of the means which it employed. His objects, perhaps, were purely selfish; his sway was arbitrary and often cruel; but he has done much to break in upon the monotonous and stationary habits of the east, and has accustomed the Egyptian mind to those changes which may hereafter be productive of unquestionable advantages. His son Ibrahim will be his successor—a poor prospect for his unfortunate subjects.

The strike of pitmen in Northumberland and Durham has at length terminated—the union of the masters having proved too strong for that of the men. Large sums of money have, of course, been absorbed—much suffering has been endured—many families have been ruined—and no useful result has been attained. This is pretty much the history of all strikes. Capital can wait—labour cannot. Capital, therefore, imposes its own terms upon labour, and usually they are hard enough. But they are seldom to be altered by such means as those to which the working classes have resorted in the northern counties.

The *Morning Chronicle*, we perceive, is confirming all the facts we stated some time since, relative to the pernicious operation of the game laws, and the cruel stringency of covenants between landlord and tenant in the agricultural counties. From a parliamentary return recently furnished to the House of Commons, upon a motion of Mr Bright, it would appear that upwards of 4,000 convictions were obtained during the past year for poaching. Here are upwards, therefore, of 4,000 criminals, made such solely by aristocratic legislation, most of whom, we doubt not, were ruthlessly plunged into the contaminating atmosphere of a jail, and were sent forth thence, confirmed and desperate villains. Who can wonder at the prevalence of incendiarism, with such facts before their eyes? The nuisance has become so intolerable, that it is stated by the *Morning Herald*, as if upon authority, that the game laws are to undergo a complete revision. We do not expect much improvement in these odious laws, as the result of the efforts of the present government. They have become too necessary, both as a source of pecuniary profit and political power to the landlord bankrupts, to allow of any serious alteration being made in them by the House of Commons.

The quarterly report of the Council of the National Complete Suffrage Union will be found in another column. To that, and to the brief account given of Mr Vincent's reception at Dublin, we beg to refer our readers, as indicating the whereabouts of this most important movement. The policy recommended by the Council has provoked, as was to have been expected, much party hostility. In the article below, we have submitted, we think, sufficient reason for adhering to it with constancy and courage.

THE POLICY OF THE COMPLETE SUFFRAGISTS.

THE political article of *Tait's Magazine* for the present month contains some remarks, suggested by the late Birmingham election, on the policy which the complete suffragists deemed it their duty, on that occasion, to pursue. We scarcely need to observe that, whilst deprecating in strong terms the course adopted, they evince a congenial spirit, and evidently proceed from a friendly pen. They have, consequently, a clear title to respectful notice. This we should have given them much earlier, but were prevented by circumstances which it will be unnecessary to explain. We now address ourselves to the task—not as those who encounter an antagonist, but as men who differ in opinion with a friend. *Tait* is worth convincing—and, if, which is but too likely, we are unable to convince him, we shall still derive satisfaction from having made the attempt. His strong common sense, his perspicacity and power, and above all, his unimpeachable honesty, constancy, and courage, have long commanded our sincerest homage. To none shall we be better pleased to render a reason for the conclusions we make our own, for none, we are persuaded, will more candidly test their value, or more frankly adopt them if they turn out sound.

The policy of the complete suffragists may be described in few words. It consists in voting for principles, irrespectively of the claims of party. It takes no account of the name by which a candidate may chance to be called. It enounces certain political truths supposed to lie at the foundation of good government. It seeks a parliamentary candidate, in whose honest convictions those truths have taken root—and, having found one, it employs the franchise in his favour, regardless of the probabilities of immediate success. The result may be, as at Birmingham, the return of a tory in the place of a whig. But of this result it takes no account—esteeming it a matter of indifference, so far as the interests of the people are concerned, which party is in possession of place and power.

The writer of the article in *Tait's Magazine* objects to this policy. It is one, he says, "of division and repulsion"—universally carried out, it would "get for us a whole parliament of Mr Spooners"—it will exasperate the liberal and semi-liberal constituencies of large towns—and it can never have the smallest chance of success until the free-trade question is practically and permanently settled.

We shall not reply to these objections *seriatim*, inasmuch as they all proceed upon a misapprehension of the main object aimed at by complete suffragists in adopting this line of policy. They assume that such means are resorted to with a view to coerce reluctant constituencies—whereas the one single end sought to be effected by them is, the rescue of constituencies from the coercion under which they already suffer. This we shall endeavour, with as much brevity as possible, to explain.

Managed as elections are now, and as they have been for some years past, they cannot, even in large towns, be regarded as any certain test of the opinions of electors. The real liberal constituency of this country is the Reform club, its attornies, and its local committees. They are the brain, the spinal cord, and the nerves, of that whole section of the electoral body which sympathises more or less with the demands of the people. The electors are but puppets in their hands. Let the writer of *Tait's* political article sit down with a list of parliamentary representatives before him—and let him prick off the names of all those members, calling themselves reformers, who do not owe their seats to the organised power of this club, who could retain them in defiance of its influence, who can afford, therefore, to set at nought its decisions, and whose senatorial conduct, on great party questions, may, without detriment to themselves, be guided by personal conviction exclusively. How many will he find? We venture to say a very miserable minority. Talk of disfranchisement! Why, here we have well-nigh the whole liberal constituency of the kingdom practically disfranchised. For it matters little, we contend, under such a system, what are the political opinions of the candidates, whether they be, or be not, in unison with those of the majority of electors. The vote will always be given to the power which conferred the seat—and, where the final responsibility lies, there will the member invariably be found. Hence, the thorough partisanship of the present House of Commons! Hence, the trimming and the shuffling of men whose professions on the hustings are as radical as one could desire! The body who disposes of the seat claims the faithful service of the member—and, in the greatest proportion of cases, that body is the Reform club.

We are usually averse to illustrations drawn from the history of individuals; but that of Colonel Thompson is so apt, so directly to the point, that we ask leave to bring it forward. We are the more readily disposed to deviate from our rule on this occasion, in consequence of the example of the Marylebone reformers being held up by this writer as worthy of being followed. We suspect that *Tait's* contributor is either ignorant or forgetful of the secret history of Marylebone, or he would not have stumbled upon so unfortunate an instance of reform-club intrigue. Leaving this, however, we ask, why is not Colonel Thompson in parliament? He is a veteran free trader—a staunch radical—a singularly able man. As a representative, he was exemplary for his assiduity, zeal, and disinterested devotion to the weal of his constituents. There are few popular boroughs who would not rejoice to call him their member. The Reform club, however, found him impracticable; and, as they failed to make him a partisan, they resolved to shut the door of the House of Commons against him. What is the consequence? In nine cases out of ten, when a vacancy occurs—at least when the liberals can return their man—the name of Colonel Thompson occurs, and is talked about. Instantly, and as if by magic, another candidate is thrust forward. Then begin all the wiles of party. Then the cry is trumpeted forth that it would be madness to divide the reforming interest. Colonel Thompson is crotchety—Colonel Thompson is a chartist—Colonel Thompson cannot secure a majority of votes—and so, Colonel Thompson is bowed out, and the Reform club gain their point.

The reasoning of *Tait's Magazine* will apply to the League equally well as to the complete suffragists. Mr Macaulay's letter to his free-trade constituents in Edinburgh went over precisely the same ground. What mean those howlings of the *Morning Chronicle* and the *Globe* against the League's interference with elections? What, but this—that could it but succeed in teaching men to vote for principles, irrespectively of party, the power of the whigs would be broken for ever?

Now it is against this enslaving of our popular constituencies that the complete suffragists have resolutely set themselves. They hold that neither free-trade nor complete suffrage principles are likely to make way in parliament until this network of party influence is destroyed. True! they may be weak and despised, but the mouse can gnaw the hole through which the lion may escape. Until constituencies learn to act for themselves, it is of small consequence whether they elect whigs or tories. Fifty seats lost to so-called liberalism, would, in their judgment, be a small price to pay for ridding the electoral body of the *incubus* of cliqueism. Be this as it may, upon this object they are intent. Abuse they expect—and also misapprehension—the abuse of foes, the misapprehension of friends. The boldness of their policy will scare many at first—and, as in the Birmingham election, timid supporters may be expected to desert in the hour of battle. But they will gather strength even in defeat. Their own principles may not be immediately promoted by their policy—but the independence of popular constituencies will at length be achieved. They are content to lose in order that they may ultimately win. They know well that it is through the electoral body they must seek their triumph, and that at their hands they

must receive the verdict which they desire. And it is just because they know this, that they are aiming to secure, in the first place, an unfettered jury. They wish to put men into a position to judge impartially; and, having done so, will submit their principles to judgment.

Such, then, is the object of the complete suffragists—and such their policy. It is obvious, that the remarks of the writer in *Tait's Magazine*, proceeding as they do in misapprehension of this object, do not touch the case. The real answer to what we have urged must establish one of two points—either that it is undesirable, on the whole, to deliver popular constituencies from reform-club coercion and intrigue—or, that the tactics resorted to are not well adapted to accomplish that end. Either of these points having been made good, the case of the complete suffragists will fall to the ground.

POPULAR EFFORTS TO GO ALONE.

THE past session has been not more remarkable for the abortive attempts of parliament to legislate on behalf of the working classes, than for the successful efforts of the working classes to better their condition by their own unaided exertions. Hitherto the people have been taught, and fondly have they clung to the delusion, that the legislature can provide a panacea for all the ills, social and political, that afflict the country—that, in short, the object of government is to make them happy. That they should have entertained so dangerous a fallacy is not to be wondered at, considering that they have so bitterly felt the truth of its converse. Their every-day's experience has too convincingly taught them that government may be used as a powerful engine for evil—and that, whether or not its power is bounded in the first direction, in the last it is unlimited. It is gratifying to find how events are undeceiving them—or rather, how, by the voluntary exertion of their own energies, they are undeceiving themselves. The inability of the legislature, in one case, and their refusal in another, to assist them, have led them to try their own resources. Parliament deludes them with the hope, and presently destroys the well-founded expectation, of a compulsory restriction of the hours of factory labour. The operatives, instead of breaking out into tumult and attempting to force their favourite object by a general strike, as young England so freely predicted, resolve upon appealing to the justice and co-operation of their masters—to see what can be done by the influence of persuasion. We look upon this as the "greatest fact," the most hopeful indication, of the progress of sound principles, the most forcible argument for the enfranchisement of the working classes, and the best guarantee for the judicious exercise of political privileges, which the present year has produced. Such exhibitions of mingled forbearance and wisdom, on the part of the masses, cannot fail of deepening and increasing a conviction of their fitness to be invested with their political rights. With the prevalence of such a feeling, we need be under no apprehension as to the systematic attempts of government to Germanise Great Britain by the introduction of a system of centralisation and surveillance, which would, in course of time, make us a nation of helpless slaves.

In social as well as political affairs, the people are learning the same great lesson of self-reliance. The House of Commons sends forth its commission (nothing in our days can be done without a commission) to inquire into the sanatory condition of the people, and suggests legislative remedies for its evils. The people, however, take the matter into their own hands. In Edinburgh the poorer classes have commenced a movement for the establishment of public baths—unquestionably one of the best promotives of health and cleanliness. Aided by the liberal support of their wealthier neighbours, that object has been attained. The inhabitants of Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee, and Paisley, and other places, encouraged by the success of their Edinburgh brethren, have resolved to imitate their example. It is, therefore, not unlikely that, ere long, every important town in Scotland will be able to boast of its public baths, erected solely by voluntary subscription. England, too, is catching the infection; and it is to be hoped that what has been done by Bolton is only the commencement of a movement, which will succeed in extending the same sanatory advantage to all our important towns south of the Tweed.

Almost simultaneously with this movement, an attempt has been made in another direction, to ameliorate the condition of the working classes—in a matter, too, in which parliament has already interfered; but which, possibly, from the fact of no addition to aristocratic power having been the consequence, has been suffered to fall into neglect. Some year or two ago a grant of £10,000 was made by the House of Commons for assisting in the formation of public parks and other places of recreation in populous towns. A considerable portion of this grant remains undisposed of to the present day! Here, again, the people have taken the matter into their own hands. Manchester, the capital of the manufacturing districts, noted above most of our populous towns for the absence of any suitable provision for securing to its vast population the advantages of fresh air and healthful relaxation, has very appropriately commenced the movement. Its manufacturers have nobly come forward and subscribed, in some instances their £1000, in others their hundreds, for the formation of public parks, walks, &c., in the vicinity of the towns. £10,000 was the princely subscription raised at a meeting held a few days since. This spirited example will, we hope and believe, be speedily emulated by our other large seats of manufacturing industry. Strange it is that Great Britain, which boasts of freer institutions than any continental country, should be behind them all in social improvement. Take, for example, the following picture from Mr Howitt's excellent work "German Experiences":—

> What now, amongst the Germans, strikes every liberal lover of his country—every man who has no motive but to see the truth and spread it, especially in our own beloved country? * * * He sees, wherever he goes, in great cities or small towns, everything done for the public enjoyment. Public walks beautifully planted, and carefully accommodated with seats at convenient distances, for the public to rest at leisure. He sees these walks laid out wherever it be possible. Old town walls and ramparts are converted into promenades, commanding, by their elevation, the finest prospects over town and country. The whole city or town is encircled by them. Thus, the old as well as the young can ascend from the heat and hurry of the streets and enjoy the freshest air and the most lively and yet soothing scenes in the streets below on one hand, or gaze into the fields and hills around. It is delightful to see, on fine days, the grey-headed fathers of a city thus seated on these airy walks, beneath their favourite limes, and enjoying their chat together over olden times, while, within a few steps of home, their eyes can still wander over those distant scenes whither their feet can no longer carry them. If there be an old castle in the suburbs of any of their towns, it is not shut up, but its gardens, and very walls, and courts, and fosses, are laid out in lovely walks, and the whole place is made the favourite resort and enjoyment of the whole population. There a coffee-house or cassino is sure to be found; and there, beneath the summer trees, old and young, rich and poor, sit and partake of their coffee, wine, and other refreshment, while some old tower near is converted into an orchestra, and sends down the finest music for the general delight. He sees all sorts of gardens, even to the royal ones, and all sorts of estates, kept open for the public observation and passage through them; he sees the woods and forests all open, too, to the foot and spirit of the delighted lover of nature and solitude. * * * He sees musical and singing societies encouraged amongst the people, where the working classes, when the labours of the day are done, can meet and enjoy a refining treat. He sees these civilising and refining influences extended over the open air enjoyments of the Sundays and holidays of the common people in city and country.
>
> But what of all these do our wealthy, our influential, our law makers, bring home and introduce amongst us? Nothing at all.

We select the above extract, not for the purpose of encouraging an idea that government should attempt, in this respect, to copy the despotic sovereigns in Germany; for it must be borne in mind, that these social enjoyments are purchased by the sacrifice of the political, mental, and even personal liberty of their subjects—that they are, in fact, the silken fetters by which arbitrary power holds its victims in subjection. But why should not this country enjoy like social advantages, secured, not by the officious interference of government, but by the voluntary exertions of the people? The successful attempt made at Manchester, proves that it is very far from being a hopeless task. The toiling millions—the producers of the wealth of the country—have they not a binding claim upon the co-operation and liberality of all (and where shall we find an exception?) who profit by their industry, to assist in ameliorating their social as well as their political condition?

These various movements for promoting the material improvement of the people are hopeful signs of the times—hopeful more, perhaps, in what they promise, than what they have already secured. The attempts of the shopmen and the operatives, to reduce the hours of labour—of the workingmen of Scotland, to promote health and cleanliness—and of all classes, to increase the means of intellectual improvement and innocent recreation, indicate the commencement of a new and important era in the history of Great Britain. The country is throwing away its leading-strings, and attempting to walk alone without the "paternal" aid of government. It is commencing the task of self-government. It is undermining aristocratic supremacy by learning to do without its officious assistance. We look upon these various social reforms as the precursors of coming political changes, and the guarantee of the peaceful triumph of democratic principles.

CHEAP TRAVELING.—We have seen nothing yet in the way of traveling which equals for cheapness a projected journey to Liverpool from London, by rail, which was to take place on Monday last, the 19th instant, and from Liverpool back to London, on the 29th instant. The journey is projected, to give travelers an opportunity of visiting Scotland, Ireland, Wales, the Lakes, and the Isle of Man; and is one of those extraordinary pleasure trips which are now so frequent, and are performed so cheaply from being participated in by a great multitude.

DOMESTIC.

METROPOLITAN.

TAHITI—MEETING OF THE LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

A SPECIAL general meeting of the London Missionary Society was held at Exeter hall on Wednesday, for the purpose of expressing the sympathy of the society with the missionaries and their families, and the mission churches, in Tahiti, and to call on their constituents throughout the country to unite with them in that object. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather (the rain having fallen in torrents), the centre of hall was very numerously attended, and there were a great number of gentlemen on the platform, among whom we observed Mr Pritchard, the late British consul at Tahiti, whose presence excited considerable interest.

At the hour of twelve FREDERICK SMITH, Esq., took the chair.

The business of the day was then opened by an appropriate prayer, offered up by Mr THORNEY, independent minister, of Cambridge.

The CHAIRMAN, having given a brief outline of the late events in Tahiti, proceeded to say, he had seen it stated in the newspapers that the Missionary Society had sent a deputation to Lord Aberdeen, and that Lord Aberdeen had stated, in his place in parliament, that the Society had made no complaint to him whatever, and that they had stated that the liberty of the missionaries had not been infringed upon. Now that conversation had taken place before any evil had occurred, except the evil of the protectorate, against which they had always protested as a great evil, because they knew that as long as that continued it would be impossible that peace and concord could be preserved in the island. But his lordship had, at the very time he made that statement, two letters in his possession which showed a very different result. Those letters, which described the then existing state of things in the island, had been transmitted to Lord Aberdeen's office four or five days before, with a request that they might be immediately forwarded to Lord Aberdeen, as it was considered probable that questions might be put to him in the House of Lords, and that he might wish to see those letters before he replied to those questions [cheers]. His lordship's memory on that occasion had been remarkably tenacious as to what had taken place a year ago, but had been perfectly oblivious of that which had occurred within a few days [cheers]. He was sorry to mention this, for it was always his desire to show a feeling of respect for those in high places [cheers]—but he could not help feeling that, if the same injuries had been inflicted upon any other community than their own, more notice would have been taken of the occurrence [cheers].

Mr FREEMAN, the secretary, then read the report of the directors of the London Missionary Society, stating that,

"They were deeply pained, but not surprised, that they should be placed under the necessity of again appealing to their friends and the Christian public, on the state of Tahiti. They had entertained but one opinion from the commencement of the French aggression on the island of Tahiti, that it would be impossible long to preserve so calm and peaceful a state of affairs, as would leave the missionaries uninterrupted, and the mission unimpeded. Their worst fears have, however, been but too speedily realised, and too deeply confirmed. The intelligence recently received has awakened emotions of most pungent grief, and leads them to await with a trembling anxiety the news which is yet to come as to the fate of the unoffending natives of Tahiti. Such anxiety for their fate is not groundless; for what, they are constrained to ask, are a few hundreds of comparatively unarmed and undisciplined natives against the trained and infuriated bands of French soldiery, let loose to desolate and destroy?"

The report then gave a brief history of the missions:—

"This society commenced its efforts in Tahiti in the the year 1797, amidst every expression of kindness and goodwill on the part of the natives and the rulers of the island. Darkness and cruelty, however, reigned at that period. Licentiousness, oppression, war, infanticide, cannibalism, and human sacrifice combined to degrade the people and to depopulate the island; and the missionaries had to persevere amidst difficulty and discouragement for nearly twenty years before their messages of peace and love seemed to produce any satisfactory result. About the close of that period their toils began to be rewarded. They saw idolatry renounced, infanticide abolished, wars terminated, schools collected, chapels built, the gospel embraced, souls converted, and Christian churches formed. Civilisation continued to advance; the Scriptures were translated into the native language, and new missions were commenced in neighbouring groups of islands; and subsequently these have extended much further, until not fewer than two hundred islands of the Polynesian Archipelago have renounced idolatry, and made some profession of Christianity. To the happy civil and religious changes in Tahiti and other islands, innumerable testimonies have been voluntarily borne by visitors most cautious in their examination of them, and most disinterested in their verdict. Naval officers of high standing in the service of the French and English and American governments, captains of merchant vessels, traders, naturalists, voyagers, have all borne honourable and unequivocal testimony to these things.

"The improved condition of the people, however, and the progress of Christianity, have served but to awaken the ambitious and intolerant designs of France and Rome. In 1836 a portion of an arrogant priesthood 'privily crept in to spy out their liberty and to bring them into bondage,' to whom Pomare and her people 'gave place, no, not for an hour' [cheers]. They felt that they needed them not; and Pomare claimed (whether wisely or not) the same right to exclude them, as foreigners, as Louis Philippe claims in demanding a passport for every Englishman who sets his foot on French soil [cheers]. Though several missionaries of the Romish church have been subsequently at Tahiti,

and one or two remain there still, they have not succeeded in gaining any natives as proselytes. The offence of the exclusion of these two priests was treated gravely, although it appears that an offering to Mammon assisted in appeasing the indignation of incensed France. The then commodore (Du Petit Thouars) demanded satisfaction, and obtained it at the cannon's mouth, in the shape of 2,000 dollars, paid chiefly by Englishmen, a letter of apology, and a royal salute in honour of the French flag.

"In 1839, Tahitian kindness in aiding Commodore La Place to repair his frigate l'Artemise, that had suffered much damage on the reef, was repaid by menacing assaults on the independence of Tahiti, and forcing Pomare to abrogate her law which excluded Roman catholic priests from settling in her territories. The directors offer no apology for such laws, they plead for universal liberty; but they might possibly ask whether France or Spain, Italy or Austria, can conscientiously commence a crusade to force the abolition of such laws among our antipodes, and yet retain others equally hostile to religious liberty over the greater part of enlightened Europe [cheers]?

"In 1842, the Tahitians were forced to submit to a fresh insult, in being forced to annul a peaceful and prudent police regulation, but which need not now be detailed.

"At the latter end of 1842, Admiral Du Petit Thouars obtained, by threats and force, the signature of the Queen to a document falsely and basely purporting to be her request to be taken under French protection. On the basis of that document, with its signature extorted under the threat of the military occupation of Tahiti, and at a moment, too, when the courage of any woman might have failed her—on the basis of that document, which the truthfulness and honour of the French government should have instantly repudiated, a claim has been set up for the protectorate of Tahiti.

"Since then further aggressions and violence have been enacted. The admiral, returning from France, found an occasion for a quarrel in the simple circumstance that Pomare had introduced a crown into her personal flag, which was flying over her humble palace, as indicative of her presence (just as the royal standard is hoisted wherever her Majesty Queen Victoria may be at the time) [cheers]. That flag was forcibly hauled down by the French troops, and the French flag hoisted, and Tahiti proclaimed a French colony.

"Pomare immediately protested against the outrage, and appealed to the King of the French against the usurpation of his officers, imploring him to reverse their acts. She appealed also to England, and, in an earnest and unpretending style, solicited the sympathy and aid of Britain's Queen.

"After the lapse of about three months, and while waiting for replies to these communications, the chiefs and people began to be uneasy. Pomare then wrote to them, recommending her people to do the French no injury [cheers], and to wait peacefully despatches from England and France, in reply to her communications."

The letter of Queen Pomare, which has already appeared in the papers, was then set forth in the report.

"Such a communication (continued the report) did her great honour, but, nevertheless, it gave offence, and it became essential to her personal safety that Pomare should seek refuge under the British flag, on board her Majesty's ketch the Basilisk. Some of the chiefs were apprehended and imprisoned that same evening. Others were sought, but effected their escape to the mountains, and a large body of natives, in a state of excitement, soon assembled there with them. Martial law was proclaimed—a sentinel is said to have been struck by some unknown native, and in reprisal the British consul is imprisoned, and then banished the island [hear]. French troops are sent to disperse the assembled natives; on their way some of them, it is reported, attempted to seize the wives of two chiefs—a struggle then ensued—the chiefs were shot—the natives then fired in their own defence and for their wives and families, and blood was shed on both sides. The directors felt it to be their duty to convey the intelligence of these events by her Majesty's government, as soon as they received it, and did so, on the 30th of July and 1st of August, to Lord Aberdeen.

"In such a state of things, what security, the society asks, is there for their missions or their missionaries? What security against the misconstruction of any of the acts of those devoted men, however harmless, or their words, however peacefully intended? To whom, under martial law, are they to appeal? Where is their defence against men who assume the right to imprison and banish an Englishman, and that Englishman the legitimate and constituted guardian of English interests there?

"The directors do not feel that they ought to wait till all the mischief is done [hear] that might be done—till the missionaries are expelled, and their congregations scattered or destroyed. What has already transpired is sufficient to awaken their fears, and to demand their interference by all the just and constitutional means in their power. It is sufficient that a missionary may not even land and sleep ashore without permission from the French authorities—that a missionary is arrested in simply passing along, and told if he ever come that way again he shall not be suffered to leave: it is sufficient that congregations are so far broken up, as that the people must escape to the mountains.

"The directors have, therefore, summoned their friends, on this occasion, to unite with them in the expression of their deepest sympathy with the missionaries and their families in the trying and dangerous circumstances in which they are placed, and with the churches under their care—they call on their friends and constituents throughout the country to unite with them in doing this, and to plead with God, who ruleth among the affairs of men, that he may speedily interpose and save the cause of his truth in that part of the world from the hands of violence and unrighteousness—that he may dispose the hearts of rulers to do the things that are just and equal, and over-rule all the circumstances of trial and perplexity for the advancement of the kingdom of his Son, till the period arrive when to him every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess.

"But, while expressing their highest hope in God, and their reliance in his almighty arm, and while commending the cause to him, the directors cannot but feel deeply persuaded, and they are assured that the great body of their Christian friends and supporters unite with them in the persuasion, that there is no rational prospect of tranquillity to the island, or hope for the peaceful prosecution of the missions, but in the withdrawment of the French protectorate [great cheering], and the restored and undisturbed independence of Tahiti [continued applause]. And the directors would ask if French magnanimity cannot afford to grant this?

"No parties can be more anxious to deprecate any serious misunderstanding between the two governments of France and England than this society [hear, hear]. But it asks for truth and honour, and justice and mercy; it pleads for the oppressed and the defenceless; it is sensitive for the interests of its own missions, and it is anxious for the welfare of the natives. It is awake to the dangers of protestant missions there—not, if left to the mere force of argument and of scripture, but if assailed by weapons they dare not use, and coerced by threats and schemes which spring only from the wisdom that is from beneath.

"The directors appeal to the sympathies of all protestant Christendom, confirmed in the conviction which they published to the world in March, 1843, that the recent aggression at Tahiti 'is only part of an extended design for the forcible establishment of catholic missions in all the islands of the Pacific, in which the labours of protestant missionaries have proved successful.'

"The directors, therefore, trust that their friends throughout the empire will meet in every suitable locality, and give expression to their sympathy and feelings, and that in such expression they shall have the hearty co-operation of all who deprecate the yoke of bondage, and who deem it a sacred obligation to stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made them free."

Dr HAMILTON, of Leeds, then came forward to propose the first resolution, which expressed sentiments in accordance with the foregoing report, especially grief and anguish at the events which had occurred in Tahiti, and sympathy with the missionaries and mission churches. In speaking of the injury the Missionary Society had to complain of, he would not make use of any aggravated language, he would speak of things as they were, and he was happy to say that he had found a word sufficiently powerful to express his feelings—an "outrage" had been committed [cheers]—a great outrage had been committed [vehement cheering]—and he believed that none of the more vehement spirits below him or around him would have wished for a bolder word [cheers]. They had heard it echoed from high places, and he thanked them for that word [cheers]. They came not there this day any further than as Britons, Christians, and philanthropists. There was no spirit of nationalism in their proceedings. It was not now a question whether the Lily or the Lion should prevail — but whether force and error should be allowed to triumph over truth and righteousness [cheers]. For the justification of this society their annals had just been read. He admitted that they could by no means sanction or warrant many of the conquests which this country's system of colonisation had achieved. He would say that, in the sight of God and man, and according to natural liberty, the professors of the Roman faith had as much ground and right on which to enter Tahiti as ourselves; and, if a law existed in that island prohibiting them from landing there, he would say that the Missionary Society neither allowed nor vindicated that law [cheers]. They disowned and repudiated all concurrence in such a law. But he nevertheless would say, that they who complained of such a law had the least justification of a complaint; they who gave to their own compatriots but a very small modicum of religious liberty, and who declared that no stranger, without a license, should be suffered to tread their shores [cheers]. "*Quis tulerit Gracchos de seditione quærentes*" [cheers]? Early in the history of our own missions our attention was directed to this island, which now rose into a prominence and into an importance by no means deserved by its size or its bearing. According to the ordinary mode of taking possession of untutored islands, and converting them into colonies, this country might have assumed dominion over this island, and have adopted all the usual appliances of colonisation in vain. It might have established institutions for the encouragement of science and art; it might have supplied it with philosophers, naturalists, metaphysicians, and still the Tahitian would have continued as savage as ever in his glen, and as wild as ever in his wood. You found him ignorant: he could only just hunt in his mountains, and just paddle his canoe; and, as to his habits, it was defilement itself. But what has this beautiful island now become? There was something of romance connected with it. Missionary labours had changed it from a Cythera to a Patmos [cheers]. It was now consecrated by the laws of the gospel of Christ. Therefore, under God, by the exertions of this society, that island had some claim upon the states of scholarship and of civilisation in Europe itself [cheers]. There now stood before them one who was a helpless woman and a sovereign. When was she treated as she deserved? She had not been a Semiramis, or one who had delighted in blood. She had not, like our Boadicea, led her countrymen to conflict. She had borne all her faculties most meekly, as a woman and as a princess. But the French offered her a protectorate! Although the age of chivalry was past, they, to save a defenceless queen, offered a protectorate! Was it that they loved their own salic law so well that they could not bear a female sovereign [loud cheers]? We had not so read our history [cheers]. With us was the maxim—"Woman on the throne of our homestead, and therefore woman on the throne of the realm" [loud cheers]. A protectorate! From what? From her subjects? They were faithful to her, and loved her. From her missionaries? They were devoted to her. From other islands? They were her allies and confederates. Protection! From whom? Such as the vulture gave to doves—wolves gave to lambs, coveting and devouring them [cheers]. Was it ever right that that protection should have been offered? was it right that it should ever have been imposed? Let them meet him with their Vattel and their Puffendorff, and it should be well; but he would still contend that, if it ever had been right to receive it, it was equally right now to disclaim it, because of the piratical and buccaneering actions by which it was effected. It might be said that this was not the question, but he would contend that it was. The evil was done, and it must be undone [cheers]. The deed was sealed, and therefore it must be annulled [cheers]. It was solemnly delivered, and therefore it must be retracted [cheers]. That was the question, and by that question they would abide [cheers]. They were without an alternative, and could not dally with the protectorate. It was a robbery, a seizure, a usurpation, and the protectorate must be spurned [loud cheers]. He should not be surprised if France were found to concede something, and to make courteous and bland admissions. But the worst of all governments was a government of concession. As well might the apothecary excuse himself of the recklessness, or the negligence, by which he killed his patient. It should be laid down as a maxim in political philosophy, that a government which was easy to concede would be equally indifferent to the wrong it might commit. Shame to the land of the Gaul! When fallen and vanquished we exulted not in her humiliation, but we had never, till now, known the depth of her disgrace. What, that the race of chevaliers should have gone upon such a crusade as this! There never was such a persecuting blood-stained country as France. This might seem inconsistent with her politeness and her polish, but it was true. This was not a question of policy, it was a question of superstition—of popery—and it was not for the missionaries, but for the protestants, of France that that society stood to-day; for there were thousands of them trembling for their country's guilt. When we were agitated, seventy-four years ago, about the Falkland islands, and fifty-four years ago about Nootka sound, there was then a healthy and vigorous tone adopted by our statesmen. They felt that to speak out was the true policy of peace. Let it not be supposed that he was an advocate for war: with all its "pride, pomp, and circumstance," he hated war: but tyranny and oppression, falsehood and injustice, he hated still more [loud cheers]. France had at this very day at Tahiti two frigates, two large corvettes, two other ships, and a steam vessel; while Great Britain had one ketch—his hearers must not suppose that this Ketch was any relation to the worthy John of that name [loud laughter]—but it was a small vessel which had a mainmast and a mizen—and the mainmast of a ketch was the glorious pole upon which floated the British banner—that

> "Flag that braved a thousand years,
> The battle and the breeze."

He would appeal to all brother missionaries to aid the society in this good cause. He warned them that their turn would come next:—

> "————Jam Deiphobi dedit ampla ruinam,
> Vulcano superante, domus; jam proximus ardet
> Ucalegon: Sigea igni freta lata relucent."

Let them not trust to Rome. Rome was as insatiable as ever, and would not desist till she had made all the standards of the civilised world cringe to her gonfalon. If the missionaries were expelled from Tahiti, they would take refuge in India and China. The artillery of France would not molest them there. When driven from one sphere they would find another. Their conflict was with Rome—declared and undisguised Rome. He did not agree with opinions which had been before now declared in that hall, that men must be politically degraded before they were religiously conquered; but, he said, that when facts and truths were made known, apostles and prophets would rejoice in the downfall of error. The rev. doctor concluded:—Let us be prepared on our missionary field—on our missionary platform—in every nook and corner to give battle to this foe. Infidelity is only strong in its alliance with Rome. All the evils of life are only potent in connexion with Rome:—

> "Rome shall perish; write that word
> In the blood that she hath spilt;
> Perish hopeless and abhorred—
> Deep in ruin as in guilt" [loud cheers].

Mr G. SMITH, independent minister (Poplar), seconded the resolution. They did not stand there to stir up war, but to maintain peace [cheers]. They were called upon to express to their brethren, who were suffering in Otaheite, their sympathy for those sufferings [cheers]. They were called upon also to reflect upon what Otaheite was, and what it is, to look to the buccaneers in its seas, and then to its inhabitants. The rev. gentleman then went, at some length, into the history of the mission to Otaheite, observing that the success that had attended the mission would stimulate them to future exertions in other lands, if they were excluded from Otaheite. The present was the fiftieth year of the existence of the Missionary Society, and they were now called upon to wreath the cypress about the laurels they had won. They were called upon again to lift up the blood-stained banner of the Cross, and to exclaim, "No peace with Rome!" [loud cheers]. He would not attempt to prevent any man worshiping in his own way, but he did not think popery would be put an end to by the spirit of the times. A friend of his had told him of a meeting in the imperial city, at which were present individuals from nine-and-twenty provinces of the earth, and speaking in as many different languages, who were going back to their various districts to preach the doctrines of Rome. This indicated vigour—it showed that the spirit of popery was as rampant as ever; and protestants ought to learn from it the necessity of sending out young men to preach the gospel of Christ, and to counteract idolatry and sin. He contended that they were entitled to the fulfilment of the promise made by the British government to the sovereign of Tahiti. He would remind the

meeting that, on the 3rd of March, 1827, a letter was written by the Right Honourable George Canning to the predecessor of Queen Pomare in the government of Tahiti, in reply to an application from that sovereign for the protection of Britain, and for liberty to use the British flag. Mr Canning stated, on behalf of the king of Great Britain, that such request could not be complied with consistently with the established usage of European nations; "but," added Mr Canning, "his Majesty commands me to say that, although the customs of Europe forbid his acceding to your wishes in this respect, he will be happy to afford you and your subjects all the protection his Majesty can grant to a friendly power at such a remote distance from his own dominions."

Dr Morison, in an eloquent and impressive speech, proposed the following resolution:—

"That this meeting, having heard the letter addressed by Queen Pomare to her people, through the chiefs of Tahiti, exhorting them to the exercise of forbearance, of peace, and of patience, cannot withhold the expression of their esteem and admiration; they regard her conduct on this trying occasion as eminently worthy of commendation, and as beautifully illustrative of the beneficial influence of Christianity over her own mind and that of her people; and, while this meeting sympathises with her, as an injured sovereign, it desires more especially, as a religious body, to express its deep and affectionate sympathy with her as a suffering Christian, and a member of the mission church at Papeete" [hear, hear].

To deprive this meek and injured Queen of her just rights, was one of the most dastardly acts of perfidy and oppression ever perpetrated by a nation calling itself great [cheers]. That sovereign appealed to those who wield the powers of state, and who conduct the government of our beloved and youthful Queen, for succour and for aid; and upon the succour of Great Britain she relied. He would ask a British audience, "Shall she appeal in vain?" [Loud cheers, and cries of "No!"] Should her appeals for succour find no echo in the breasts of Queen Victoria's ministers [cheers]? Would Great Britain, by tacit connivance, set the seal of her approbation upon the cruelty and wrongs perpetrated by French officers? [cries of "No, no!"] Should the liberties of the civilised world be menaced in the great Southern Pacific, to gratify the ambition, the vanity, and the priestcraft of France? [shouts of "No!" and cheers.] Forbid it justice! forbid it Christianity! forbid it British honour [cheers]! Forbid it every consideration that can minister to the pacific relations of Europe, or of the world [repeated cheers]. It would be a perpetual stain on the character of Great Britain if the wrongs which had been recently perpetrated in the South Seas were not, in some way, effectually redressed. Sir Robert Peel and the Duke of Wellington, as ministers of the crown, had declared, in their responsible characters, that a great outrage had been committed; and the civilised world would expect that a great outrage should be dealt with by Great Britain as it deserved [cheers]. They were the ardent friends of peace—and far distant be the day when France and England should enter into hostile conflict: but, just because they abhorred and deprecated war, as one of the direst calamities that could afflict the human race, they maintained that peaceful relations must be upheld on principles of honour, integrity, humanity, and regard to mutual rights [cheers].

Dr Leifchild seconded the resolution. He was sure the meeting would give their cordial co-operation in the objects of this meeting, viz., to express their sympathy for the Queen of Tahiti and her people, and to obtain redress, if possible, for the gross outrages which had been perpetrated against them by the French officers [cheers]. He was sure the meeting must view with abhorrence the cruelties which had been practised against an unoffending and defenceless people, and that they were anxious that measures should be taken to prevent the recurrence of similar proceedings [cheers]. It was not sufficient that the French government had recalled their admiral, they should be called upon to take steps to guard against similar occurrences in future [cheers]. With the press on their side, the almost universal feeling of the country on their side, and the principles of eternal justice and truth on their side, what had they to fear [cheers]? He did not wish for war. He was for peace—personal peace, sectarian peace, and national peace, if possible: but if not—if the principles of justice, of national honour, and of humanity, were to be sacrificed for peace—[a voice, "What then?"]—why then, he would say, woe unto him from whom the offence cometh [cheers]. But he was assured that a *proper* representation, made by the British government to that of France, would prevent war; and that was the reason he advocated the expression of the opinion of this country on the subject.

Mr Josiah Conder then moved—

"That this meeting receives with unfeigned thankfulness to God, the intelligence that the efforts of the Romish priests in Tahiti to draw the people from the 'simplicity that is in Christ,' to the corrupt superstitions of the papacy, have hitherto been without success; this meeting indulges the hope that the Scriptural knowledge, the enlightened conviction, uncompromising steadfastness and the humble faith of the members of the church in Tahiti may be sustained amidst their perils, to the honour of the Saviour, and the triumphs of his truth. At the same time, this meeting records its deliberate protest against the whole scheme of the forcible introduction of Popery to those islands, and cannot but regard the present assaults on the civil liberties of the natives of Tahiti, as the true and legitimate results of an unrighteous interference with their religious position, and such as protestants may well view with jealousy in every part of the known world, whether identified with measures on a larger or on a more limited scale" [hear, hear].

There was an opinion that the first fault committed was by their missionaries, who had refused admission into the island to two Roman Catholic priests. But the truth was, there was a law of that island to that effect, and the missionaries had nothing whatever to do with it. It was said that Exeter hall usurped the functions of the House of Commons. It was not their fault if the House of Commons chose to devolve its functions on Exeter hall [cheers]. It was a grievous thing that the House of Commons had not taken up the subject [cheers]. There was too much pusillanimity existing on the subject. Otaheite was not the only island that was to be subject to a French protectorate. There was Hayti. There were the Sandwich Islands. There were the recommendations to expel our consul at Cuba. It was time the country should be roused; but as to war, France no more dared to go to war than England [loud cheers]. Louis Philippe, for his selfish purposes, had taken the Roman Catholic missionaries under his protection; but he believed the French people were perfectly indifferent on the subject. Had our government taken the part they ought to have taken in the first instance, and, instead of deceiving the deputations of the Missionary Society at the time they had resolved to give their consent to the protectorate, resisted the first aggressions of the French; had they, instead of relying upon the French accounts, or suffering them to pass uncontradicted, obtained and printed the information which might easily have been obtained from our own officers who have visited the island, it is my firm conviction, that there would have been no difficulty in convincing the French government that they had been deceived by false statements; and that having a just cause, we had no wish to quarrel, but were determined that British property, British civilisation. British protestantism, should not be sacrificed or placed at the mercy of French brigands [applause].

The Hon. Baptist Noel seconded the resolution. He had to recall to the recollection of the meeting, that when the Tahitians exhibited their love of French protection, by doing what they had a right to do—refusing to bring their fresh provisions to the market for the French crews to purchase—the French officer in command issued an ordinance proscribing all those who refused to bring forward their provisions; and the Tahitians fled, the Queen was deposed, and her property plundered. Under these circumstances, when the British consul—and he had yet to learn that a British consul ceased to be such, because he protested against a flagrant usurpation [cheers]—when the British consul gave proper and good advice to Queen Pomare, he was seized, and amidst the jeers of the French soldiery conducted to prison. It was proclaimed by the French that the British consul should be held responsible for all that might occur, and that any French blood that might be shed should recoil on his head. This he took from the French accounts. Blood had been shed. Many Tahitians had fallen, and more had been wounded, and some of the French soldiers had also been killed. Under these circumstances they were now assembled to express their sympathy with het natives of Tahiti, and with their own countryman who had been oppressed, imprisoned, and wronged [cheers]. It was said France would make reparation. But what reparation could the French government give for the wrongs which they had committed on the people of Tahiti, and for the blood that had been so unjustly—so wantonly shed? Our government might obtain reparation for British subjects, but Queen Pomare and her people were not British subjects. What reparation could France make to those who had been made widows and orphans by these wrongs? The people of this country should meet and declare that they would take measures to prevent the recurrence of such wrong. Let it be remembered that all these outrages, except the last, had been perpetrated under the French protectorate, therefore it was no security to the Tahitians or the English to restore that protectorate. What guarantee could M. Guizot give against the renewal of these outrages? True, Dupetit Thouars would no longer insult Papeete but he wished he could hear that M. Mœrenhout, the origin of all these troubles, had also been expelled. There was a gentleman on the platform who could tell them if that desirable act had transpired.

Mr Pritchard: It has not transpired.

The Hon. Baptist W. Noel considered it was an insult to Tahiti and to England to continue such a man as Mœrenhout (who had been dismissed from the office of American consul) in the office of French consul. What security was there, if the island was to remain nnder French protection, that moderate men would be appointed at Tahiti, and that men as violent as Dupetit Thouars and others would not be sent there to persecute the natives, and insult and imprison British subjects? There was one barrier against this—the British missionaries (cheers). They were the men whose independence of thought, vigour of character, and connexion with this great government, rendered them superior to coward fear. They would never cease to stand forth as the protectors of these poor islanders, and therefore it was that they were charged with instigating rebellion and all sorts of crimes; and so long as the French protectorate lasted, these missionaries would never be free from those charges, which might end in their expulsion from the island altogether. It was the duty of the government of this country to protect those missionaries from unjust aspersions against their characters, as well as against violence; and unless a guarantee was obtained from the French government (supposing the French protectorate to continue), that that protection should be afforded, this country would not have right done to it [hear, hear]. But could the French government guarantee them against such charges? They might send Mr Pritchard back, as he ought to be sent back, as consul to Tahiti [loud cheers]; but he must go back with his character unstained—it must be known that the charges made against him were utterly unfounded. He must go back with his colours flying, and in a condition to set up the flag of his consulship unstained; but when he did go back, and the French commandant at Papeete knew that he could not again oppress him, yet who was to protect him against any insults which a bullying French commander might think it nationality to offer [cheers]? They must do what had been that day suggested—urge the abolition of the French protectorate [cheers]. They should demand proper guarantees, and if those could not be given, they should demand that France alone should not be the protector of the island [cheers]. If the French were placed in difficulties in consequence, they should have well considered before they accepted the protectorate. They should consider that they ought to confide not to the fear of England, but to the sense of right. Our own government had brought itself into these difficulties, by not watching the protectorate narrowly at first. He rejoiced that, although these difficulties had occurred, they were calculated to fix an eternal hatred in Tahiti to popery [cheers]. Catholicity and protestantism were now face to face in Tahiti. Catholicity, supported by French cannon, French brandy, and the debauchery of French sailors; protestantism, supported by the Bible, by the civilisation and happiness of the Tahitians [cheers]. Give the catholics every liberty they might ask, only let him not gag the defenders of the truth, and he had no fear for the result [cheers].

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

Mr J. Burnet moved the concluding resolution:—

"That, as the friends of Christian missions in Tahiti, this meeting records its deliberate opinion, that the best interests of the mission there have been endangered from the first moment that the French assumed the protectorate of the island; that that arbitrary measure ought never to have been enacted; that it never could be enacted without speedily involving the most disastrous consequences; that these have already developed themselves in part, and must continue to do as long as it remains; and, therefore, that this meeting solemnly asserts its firm belief, that there is no security for the civil or religious liberties of Tahiti, no rational prospect of success to protestant missions there, no possibility of avoiding misunderstanding, jealousy, and collision, but by the complete withdrawment by France of her assumed protection of the territories of Pomare. And further, that a memorial be presented to her Majesty the Queen, founded on the resolutions of this meeting; that the members and friends of the society throughout the empire be requested to adopt such measures as they deem most expedient to express their sentiments and feelings on this critical occasion; and that the friends of evangelical protestant Christianity throughout the world be invited to sympathise with them, and to declare that sympathy in such a way as they deem most effective and appropriate."

Mr Burnet said, that he was opposed to all war, and he would not, for the sake of Tahiti, or even our own island, advise any nation to go to war. But while he took this view, he believed that France has some regard for her character, and that she would not like to be gibbeted before the whole civilised world for injustice and cruelty. This, however, she must be (and it was worse than war), unless she retrieved the evil deeds that her subjects have perpetrated in the Southern ocean. The whole secret of the exertions of France to get possession of Otaheite was to carry still further the Roman catholic religion [hear, hear]. It could not be on account of the number of their ships there in the course of a year, because they were only 20, while the number of English ships was 80, and the American 110. It had been admitted in the French chamber, that Otaheite would cost that country £100,000 a year, and he was sure the French government never would be induced to expend so large a sum for so small a territory, except it was for the sake of extending the church of Rome. He trusted the meeting would agree to the resolution with acclamation.

A general call was here made for Mr Pritchard, but

Mr Freeman, the secretary of the society, stated that Mr Pritchard felt the honour of being called upon, and would have willingly addressed the meeting in obedience to their wish, but as a servant of the crown, in the hands of the Earl of Aberdeen, he was anxious not to give offence, and perhaps occasion excitement, which might be referred to in other quarters, and become the means of embarrassing the government of both countries [cheering].

Mr W. Ellis then proceeded to second the resolution, which was declared to be carried unanimously.

Thanks were then voted to the chairman, and the meeting dispersed.

French Aggressions at Tahiti.—Preston.—A meeting of the dissenting congregations, on the affairs of Tahiti, was held at Preston last week. The chair was occupied by Mr Furness, a Wesleyan, and the meeting addressed by the chairman, and Messrs Slate, Simpson, and Edwards, ministers of the town. A memorial to the Queen was adopted.

We perceive, from the *Bristol Mercury*, that a memorial to Lord Aberdeen on the same subject is in course of signature by the congregationalists of that city.

Education.—Horselydown, Southwark.—On Tuesday last two spacious new school-rooms were opened for the use of the Horselydown and Bermondsey British day and Sunday schools. The building is a neat substantial structure, erected upon freehold ground, presented by the church under the pastoral care of the Rev. John Adey, and is capable of affording instruction to upwards of four hundred children. The total cost of the erection of the building, fittings, &c., is about £750, towards which the sum of £500 has been already contributed. The proceedings connected with the opening were particularly interesting. The children, amounting to about three hundred, assembled in the morning, and walked through several of the streets in the locality; after which they repaired to the new rooms, where they were plentifully regaled with a dinner of roast beef and plum pudding. At five o'clock a public tea meeting was held, when above four hundred persons were assembled. In the evening a public meeting was held at Union chapel, which was most numerously and respectably attended. The chair was occupied by Frederick Smith, Esq., who ably addressed the meeting on the advantages of educa-

tion, and the necessity for strenuous efforts to extend its blessings. The meeting was addressed by D. W. Wire, Esq.; W. Jones, Esq.; Messrs Adey, Dubourg, Richard, Rogers, Bodington, Lyon, and Pearce (of Wrexham), dissenting ministers.

MORE LETTER OPENING AT THE POST OFFICE.—During the last few days disclosures of the most extraordinary character have been made in the letter-carriers' office of the General Post office, from the discovery by the authorities of a most extensive collusion on the part of several letter-carriers employed in the delivery of letters in the western district of the metropolis, who, it appears, have been for some time in the habit of opening letters directed to noblemen, gentlemen, and others connected with the sporting world, with the view, as far as we can learn, of disposing of such information for some pecuniary consideration, or betting themselves upon the strength of it. From what has already been ascertained, there can be no question but that this illegal and most reprehensible practice has been carried on for a length of time, and that letters, both inward and outward, have been thus treated, and their contents copied, the letters being afterwards duly delivered, or forwarded, as the case might be. It is also proved that bets to a large amount have been laid by several of the parties implicated; and as the inquiry progresses from day to day, other and more startling facts are brought to light, and additional revelations made culpatory of other letter carriers and sub-sorters, who have, either directly or indirectly, been engaged in the transaction.

DISCHARGE OF PRISONERS FOR DEBT UNDER THE NEW ACT.—Up to Saturday, nearly 120 persons have availed themselves of the privilege given by Lord Brougham's bill for the amendment of the bankruptcy and insolvent laws, and for the abolition of imprisonment for debt under £20, the majority of whom had been incarcerated for debts considerably under that sum. From Whitecross street above sixty persons have been discharged, and thirty from the Queen's prison. In this prison there are about ten more cases, some of whom are very reluctant, and, in fact, refuse to avail themselves of the privilege, feeling themselves, from length of confinement, perfectly at home and content to remain where they are. In those cases their wishes will be defeated, as, in the event of their not applying, the governor of the prison will feel himself bound to apply for their discharge and removal. In Horsemonger lane about twenty have been discharged.

MR DYCE SOMBRE. — We understand that Mr Dyce Sombre, whose very remarkable case was only a few days back the subject of discussion in the court of chancery, has a second time effected his escape from the persons appointed to look after him. His first escape was at Liverpool, shortly after the decision of a jury that he was incapable of managing his affairs. He proceeded to France, from which he returned to dispute the validity of that decision by an appeal to the Lord Chancellor. Lord Lyndhurst gave judgment against the appeal. Since the arrival of Mr Dyce Sombre in London, the very proper precaution was taken of placing two or three men, either officers of the court of chancery, or policemen in plain clothes, to keep watch on all his movements. These men lodged in the same house with him, and one of them was always seen to follow him when he went abroad. It appears that on Tuesday last Mr Dyce Sombre left his lodgings in the Haymarket, followed, as usual, by one of these men, and proceeded in the direction of Piccadilly. Near, if not in, the Burlington arcade, he contrived to give his attendant the slip, and he has not since been heard of, although the most active measures have, doubtless, been taken to discover his retreat.

The police entered a gaming-house, in Bennett street, St James's, on Wednesday night, and captured five persons. No gambling implements were found; because, it was supposed, the porter had recognised the police, and had given notice to the gamesters above stairs; so the Marlborough Street magistrates were obliged to discharge the prisoners.

MORTALITY IN THE METROPOLIS.—There has been a considerable decrease in the number of deaths during the last week. The total number was 934—previous week, 1,014; average of five summers, 900. The excess over the average is chiefly attributable to small-pox, scarlatina, diarrhœa, and typhus, which, taken together, exceed the average by 118, the numbers being 227 and 109. In consumption, inflammation of the lungs, and old age, there is a considerable decrease. The following is the analysis of the lists of violent deaths:—Fracture or contusion, five cases, of which three were by falls; dislocation, one case; wound, two cases, of which one was suicide; drowning, four cases; poison, two cases, of which one was suicide; and murder, one case: total—eight males and seven females. The thermometer was highest on Tuesday, 68—and lowest on Saturday, 48 degrees. The barometer had ranged low during the whole, the average being about 29·5, and the rain in inches 0·44.

THE NEW ROYAL EXCHANGE.—The works of this great edifice are drawing to a rapid conclusion, and we are informed that every possible effort is being made for their early completion. On the outside the sculpture on the pediment has been finished, and is considered on the whole to be a work of considerable merit. On the stone base supporting the statue of Commerce, which forms the centre and principal figure of the group, is the very appropriate inscription from the Psalms—"The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof." We understand that the suggestion of such an inscription was first given to the sculptor, Mr Westmacott, by a very noble personage, who took much interest in the whole composition. On the frieze of the portico a Latin inscription is partly cut, recording the very curious fact of the founding of the Exchange in the reign of one Queen—viz., Elizabeth, and its rebuilding in the reign of another, her present most gracious majesty Queen Victoria. The cleaning down of the work is proceeding with great expedition, and as the architecture becomes more developed by the removal of the scaffolding and the finishing of the carvings of the various parts, the general impression, as to the elegance and characteristic design of the structure, which has been always favourable, seems to increase vastly. In the centre of the south front, over the three openings, the arms of Sir Thomas Gresham, of the Mercers' company, and of the city of London, are introduced on the key stones, and, with the architectural accompaniments of festoons and other decorations, give great beauty to this most important entrance. The domes at the north and south entrances are painted in fresco, and form a becoming introduction to the merchants' area within. The ceiling of the covered walk surrounding the open area is nearly finished. It is, as has been already stated, painted in encaustic on the surface of the architecture, and is considered to produce a very beautiful effect. In the centre of each panel are painted the arms of the great nations of the earth. In the four corners are the arms of Edward the Confessor, Edward the Third, Queen Elizabeth, and Charles the Second, each of the two latter being so placed as to be in connexion with the statues of the respective sovereigns. The statue of Charles is the old statue in marble which stood in the centre of the old Exchange, and is now being renovated by Mr Watson, who is also carving a statue of Queen Elizabeth, to be placed in the corresponding niche. The covered walk is paved with enormous flag stones, of a light colour, divided into bands by lines composed of a hard black stone, called Castle hill stone, with squares of polished red granite at the intersections. Great pains appear to have been taken to keep the vaults dry under the open area, and to secure a beautiful, even, and dry surface for the pavement of this essential part of the Royal Exchange. To secure this object, in the first place, we are informed there is a solid layer of concrete upon the arches. Upon that concrete is a coating of the asphalte of Seyssel, laid to a proper slope, and terminating in iron gutters, which communicate with pipes and carry the water into drains below. Over this asphalte will be laid another bed of concrete, to receive the tesselated pavement which will form the finish. The asphalte is already partly laid, and it is said that it will be completed in a week. The tesselated pavement will form a border and bands of varied patterns, and is contracted for by Messrs Singer, of Vauxhall. It is stated that the workmen will begin to lay down the tesselated pavement in the course of next week. This pavement is a revival of what was considered a lost art, but it is now about to be restored with exquisite beauty, and, from the perfect vitrification of the tesseræ, it must be extremely durable and non-absorbent. The various offices and shops are in a remarkable state of forwardness, particularly the great rooms on the one pair floor intended for Lloyd's establishment. In these rooms the scaffoldings have been removed, and they are to be the finest apartments in the city. One of them is 100 feet in length. Over the great western entrance is a coat of the royal arms, with supporters in *alto relievo*, carved in a style of amazing boldness and effect, by Mr Carew. The fixing of it will be completed in the course of the ensuing week. Mr Carew is finishing a splendid statue of Whittington for one of the principal niches of the edifice.—*Observer*.

SUPPOSED FOUNDATIONS OF A ROMAN TEMPLE, NEAR WATLING STREET.—On Monday, while some men were excavating the ground in Bread street, south of Watling street, they discovered a Roman brick pavement (the bricks one inch square), which was several feet in length, and at a depth of eight feet from the surface. On Saturday last some Roman pavement, of a similar character, and parallel with the former, was dug up in Friday street. It is supposed that this pavement extends under the houses from street to street. A few days ago a Roman sewer was met with at the bottom of Friday street, adjoining Great Fish street, the first that has been seen in London. It was at about eighteen feet below the surface, and composed of Kentish rag, bricks, and lime. The width of it was about two feet. Very extensive excavations have been made in this neighbourhood for the formation of a sewer, in the course of which numerous Roman walls impeded the progress of the workmen. In the three adjoining thoroughfares of Little Trinity lane, Huggins lane, and Bread street hill, leading to Great Fish street, were discovered massive walls, going north and south, with other walls intersecting them, some parallel with each other, at a distance apart only of about fourteen inches, and the walls were between two and three feet thick. At the lower part of Little Trinity lane, an immense quantity of bullocks' horns and animal bones were dug up; as also in Lambeth hill, and in different parts Roman silver and copper coins, pottery, &c. From the circumstance of the extent and the number of walls, this is supposed to have been the site of a Roman temple, which was dedicated to Jupiter.

EXTRAORDINARILY LOW TIDE.—The river on Saturday and Sunday presented a most remarkable and unusual appearance, in consequence of the tide, which was so low at one period as to cause the greatest difficulty among the steam-boats and other vessels in navigating the river, particularly between London bridge and Chelsea. At Waterloo and Blackfriars the river had more the appearance of a canal, and might have been easily waded through.

LONDON TO BRUSSELS IN A DAY.—It may be interesting to some of our readers to know that the journey from London to Brussels can be accomplished regularly in one day. The arrangements for this great object commenced on Sunday last. The train left London for Dover at half-past five a.m., arrived at Dover at nine; the embarkation on board the Princess Mary, belonging to the Dover Railway Company, took place immediately, and the voyage to Ostend was performed in little more than four hours and a half. The passengers left Ostend at a quarter past four o'clock, and arrived in Brussels at a quarter past nine the same evening; the whole distance (238 miles) having been accomplished in fifteen hours and three-quarters. The stoppage in Ostend exceeded two hours.

THE IOWAY INDIANS.—The fourteen members of this tribe which have recently arrived from America, are now exhibiting their war dances, peace dances, their national songs, games, &c., at the Egyptian hall, Piccadilly, under the arrangement of Mr Catlin. These Indians appear more wild and uncouth than any that have yet made their appearance in this country; and in the noises they utter, and the feats they perform, there is more of the primitive people of the woods and forests than has hitherto been seen in England. In personal appearance the men are inferior to the Ojibbeways, who were exhibited in the same room at the commencement of the year, and the women, or squaws, have but little of that sort of female attraction by which men of civilised countries can be charmed. All the party are smeared and plastered with red paint, white and blue streaks, and strange embellishments. Their heads are decorated with feathers, and their clothing is the skin of beasts—viz., the deer and the bear. The Chief is called "White Cloud," or Mew-hu-she-kaw, and the rest of the group have the following designations:—Neu-mon-ya (Walking Rain), third Chief; Se-non-ty-yah (Blister Feet), Great Medicine man. Warriors and Braves. — Wash-ka-mon-ya (Fast Dancer); No-ho-mun-ya (One who gives no attention); Shon-ta-yi-ga (Little Wolf); We-tan-ye (One always foremost); Wa-ta-we-bu-ka-na (Commanding General); the son of Walking Rain, ten years old; Jeffrey, the interpreter. Squaws—Ruton-ye-we-ma (Strutting Pigeon), White Cloud's wife; Ruton-we-me (Pigeon on the Wing); Oke-we-me (Female Bear that walks on the back of another); Koon-za-ya-me (Female War Eagle sailing); Ta-pa-ta-me (Sophia), Wisdom, White Cloud's daughter; Corsair (a Papoose). Their appearance is between the grotesque and the frightful; but to those who admire the incongruous, even in its disagreeable forms, a sight of them will be a high treat. On Friday the Indians, accompanied by Mr George Catlin and Mr Melody, waited on Mr and Mrs D'Israeli, at their residence, Grosvenor gate, Park lane, where a large party of the *haut ton* had been invited to meet the "illustrious strangers." The immediate object of the visit was to give these children of the forest an idea of an English gentleman's residence, and of the style of living of our aristocracy.

CATS' MEAT AND HORSES' TONGUES. — On Tuesday Mr Wakley, M.P., held an inquest at the Elephant and Castle, King's road, St Pancras, on the body of John King, aged fourteen years. It appeared in evidence that the deceased was a deputy vendor of cats' meat, and got from his employer 2s. 6d. a week, and his breakfast and dinner each day. On Monday last he knocked at the door of a customer in Henry street, Hampstead road, and the instant the door was opened he fell into the passage and died. He was subject to fits. The Coroner: His must have been a very laborious occupation, for he must have traveled a long distance with a large quantity of meat, which I understand is sold at 1d. per pound, before any profit could be realised. A juror: Oh dear, no; cats' meat is sold at 3d. and 4d. per pound, and he would not have to wheel more at any time in his barrow than half a cwt. A good cats'-meat walk is a fine fortune, and the proprietor would not sell his vested interest for a trifle. The Coroner: I believe it is boiled horseflesh they sell. Did any of you ever see them sell for cats' meat boiled horses' tongues? A juror: Never. The Coroner: To be sure you never did. They are salted and dried, and sold for ox's tongues. A juror: Yes, many of the so-called pickled and cured neat's tongues come from the knacker's yard. The Coroner: It requires, I am told, a nice palate to distinguish the flavour of an ox's tongue from that of a horse. I do not see why it should not be so. A gentleman: The prejudice against equine flesh is not universal. The celebrated sausages of Arles, in the south of France, are principally composed of ass's flesh and condiments. They are considered a great delicacy, easy of digestion, and extremely *appetissant*. The jury returned a verdict of "Natural death."

PROVINCIAL.

PEOPLE'S COLLEGE. — The examination of the "People's college," Sheffield, founded by Mr S. Bailey, independent minister, took place on the 8th inst, and astonished and delighted a large audience. The students are 200 in number; and many of them — working men — translated Latin, Greek, and modern languages, with great facility. One student, who, when he entered the college, did not know the meaning of the word mathematics, demonstrated a long and difficult problem.

MR ARTHUR O'NEILL.—A tea meeting was held on Monday evening last, at the late Mechanics' Institution, Birmingham, to celebrate the liberation of Mr Arthur O'Neill from Stafford gaol. Mr Councillor Page presided. Among the company were Messrs Joseph Sturge, Charles Sturge, Councillors Baldwin, Perry, and Hawkes, Mr Blaxland, Mr Pumphry, &c. There were upwards of a thousand persons present, and, after a lengthened address from Mr O'Neill, who was followed by Mr Sturge and other speakers, the meeting separated about ten o'clock. Three compositions in verse, written for the occasion, were read during the evening, and "ordered to be printed."

CLOSE OF THE PITMEN'S STRIKE.—The strike of the pitmen in the counties of Northumberland and Durham is now at an end, the whole of the collieries, with very unimportant exceptions, having engaged all the workmen they require on the terms and conditions offered by the coal owners previous to the 5th of April, when the strike commenced. The Durham pitmen were the first to give way, and several collieries on the Wear and the Tees resumed work early last week. The Tyne pitmen seem inclined to hold out longer, but the determination of the owners to engage other men if their old workmen hold out any longer than Friday, of which due intimation had been given by placards plentifully posted in the district, at once decided the struggle in their favour.

TREAT TO THE POOR.—The poor of Preston, to the number of 1,000, were treated with a gratuitous trip to Fleetwood, on Monday last. The arrangements were made by the Temperance Excursion committee, and tickets were sold at the rate of forty for 20s., to benevolent individuals who were anxious to give a treat to those who were unable to treat themselves. This is an example well worthy of imitation.—*Liverpool Chronicle.*

EXTRAORDINARY SPREAD OF PHONOGRAPHY IN BRISTOL.—From the delivery of nineteen public lectures given by Mr Joseph Pitman, explanatory of the principles of this new and rapid mode of writing, upwards of 500 pupils have been obtained (among whom are 150 ladies, and four or five reverend gentlemen), who are now steadily progressing in the art. Many of Mr Pitman's pupils in this city have already become members of the "Phonographic Corresponding Society," some of them being able to write from 50 to 60 or 90 words per minute, and there can be no doubt that very shortly they will report *verbatim*. Mr Pitman keeps up a correspondence with many of his pupils; we hear that upwards of 300 letters have passed through the post between him and them, all, of course, written in the new character. This system of phonetic writing, originally brought out and laid before the public by Mr Isaac Pitman, of Bath, is now occupying the attention of a large society, as well as some thousands of private studen's.—*Bristol Mercury.*

FUNERAL OF DR DALTON.—Dr Dalton, the chemist, was buried at Ardwick cemetery, in Manchester, on Monday, the 12th instant. The funeral was a public one; the shops and warehouses in the line of the procession were closed, and every one seemed desirous to pay respect to the philosopher's memory. Dr Dalton was a quaker.

LIFE POLICIES.—A trial respecting a life policy took place on Tuesday, at Monmouth. An action was brought by the widow and administratrix of one Benjamin Walters, deceased, against the directors of the Alfred Home and Foreign Mutual Insurance association, to recover the sum of £500 upon a policy of insurance effected on the life of Walters. The defendants pleaded that they had been deceived by Walters, when they granted the policy, as to his state of health; for though he pretended to be in good health, he was afflicted with paralysis. Evidence was adduced on both sides, of rather a contradictory nature, not very distinct for either party, yet so much in favour of the plaintiff's claim that the jury returned a verdict for her without requiring the judge to sum up. The registrar of deaths had entered, without proper authority, the cause of the man's death as "paralytic stroke;" and this appears to have induced the insurance company to contest payment of the amount claimed.

DEPTFORD DOCKYARD.—The utmost activity now prevails throughout all the departments of this long-closed yard. Between 300 and 400 mechanics and others are now employed daily, and in the slips the hands are fully employed in the build of comparatively small craft, and in the construction of the giant war steamer the Terrible. This vessel, when completed, which it is supposed it will be by April next year, will be the largest steamer afloat in the government service of this or any other country.

THE ASSIZES.—STATE OF CRIME.—The present assizes are running their course; and were we to take the current accounts given to us from day to day, as sole data on which to estimate the social condition of England, we might easily draw a gloomy and revolting picture. There is scarcely a commission opened where we are not told that the calendar presents one or more cases for murder, several for manslaughter, arising either from "feloniously shooting," or from brutal treatment in a pugilistic encounter; and mixed up with the numerous cases of arson, burglary, and petty offences, may be seen brief and almost unrecorded notices of crimes, of which "it is a shame even to speak." Without assuming that there is more than the "average" number of cases, it cannot be denied that the present assizes have presented some very peculiar and painful characteristics. * * * Such of our readers as may not have attended to the assize intelligence during the last two or three weeks, may deem our remarks overcharged. We are reluctant, however, to confirm their accuracy by any detailed catalogue. Let a few, selected almost at random, suffice. There was Saville, who, for the deliberate and most atrocious murder of his wife and three children, was hung at Nottingham, and whose execution was accompanied by the unhappy accident which has attracted so much of public attention. Scarcely had the judges left Nottingham, when the papers contained two cases, one of manslaughter in a prize fight, the other of a wife having poisoned her husband. At Bodmin, a young man, animated by jealousy, is charged with decoying and killing a young girl, to whom he professed strong attachment, and is left for execution. This case is the only one out of the whole which presents anything of wildness or singularity in the circumstances. At Newcastle-on-Tyne, an old man is left for death, for having, under circumstances of great brutality, murdered his wife. A similar case at Wells is recorded, in which, though insanity may be inferred, the jury found the man guilty, and sentence was pronounced. At Stafford, there was the "Wednesbury murder;" while, at Coventry, a young girl, only thirteen years of age, was charged with having cut the throat of a baby sleeping in the cradle, out of spite to her mistress! In this case the jury could not agree on a verdict, were discharged, and the prisoner was retained for trial at the next assizes. At Norwich, Frost, for killing his four children; and at Lincoln, Eliza Joyce, for poisoning two; were respectively acquitted, on the ground of insanity. We take no note of the numerous cases of manslaughter, some arising out of drunken quarrels in beer shops, others from feelings of irritation, engendered by personal transactions—as, in one case, where a man beat another so severely, because he owed him a sovereign, as to cause his death in a few minutes. In personal quarrels there appears to be less resort to the use of the knife than formerly; but, "felonious shooting" is frequent. We may add to all these, two instances which led the judges to deplore the evidence which they afforded of the gross ignorance of the population; one at Wells, in which a young girl of fourteen years of age was rejected as a witness, because she declared that she had never heard of a future state, or of the existence of a God; the other at Lancaster, where a wretched young woman, indicted for bigamy, pleaded the written consent of her first husband, who had deserted her, as a valid defence for intermarrying with the second. All this is no evidence that society is retrograding; but it cannot afford matter for pleasant reflection. Society is not retrograding—it is worse than puerile to entertain the idea. With increase of wealth, there is not only diffusion of knowledge, but extension of morality. Refinement does not necessarily corrupt, nor accumulation of riches brutalise. On this subject it would be easy indeed to enlarge; but it is unnecessary for those who can in the least recall the past, or observe the present. But the painful facts to which we have alluded show that the under stratum of British society shares but little in the civilising influences permeating all above. There is great movement on the surface; there the agitation is working unquestionably more for good than for evil; in spite of the hurry scurry of daily life, society is more decent, healthier—more generous, elevated, and humane, than at any former period of our history. But the slough of despond still lies at the bottom; and the only signals which it sends up are but intimations at once of its depth and its darkness. Drain it we must, if we value future security, else its first movement may resemble that of a floating bog, carrying with it into confluent ruin fertile fields and cultivated gardens.—*Birmingham Journal.*

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—DEATH BY DROWNING.—On the evening of yesterday week, an accident of a most melancholy nature took place in the Gipping, nearly opposite Boss hall, by which the life of a highly respectable and esteemed member of society was lost. It appears to have been the custom of the scholars at Mr J. S. Buck's school—the establishment being on the Norwich road—to bathe, during the summer months, in the river Gipping. The school resorted to the usual spot on the evening in question, and four lads went in to bathe, but one of them, James Morrison, soon got out of his depth. Mr Buck saw him, and with a courage and decision worthy the most exalted character, without any consideration for his own danger, as he could not swim, plunged in, and attempted to rescue the lad. His noble attempt only closed, however, in his own death, and the life of his scholar was preserved by the bold and intrepid conduct of Mr Joshua Farrar Ranson, who was accidentally near the spot, and called on for assistance. An inquest was held on the body on Saturday, by Mr J. E. Sparrowe, at which the following evidence was adduced:—

Arthur Eisdell, late a pupil of Mr Buck, said the deceased accompanied five or six of his scholars yesterday evening to bathe in the river Gipping; all but two of the boys went in in a part of the river at a little distance from Boss hall. The deceased remained standing on the bank, watching us; it was not deep where we went in. James Morrison, one of the scholars, was one among the boys in the water; I saw him floundering about; Mr Buck saw him, and he immediately threw off his coat and hat and jumped in after him. I got out then, and saw Mr Buck had sunk under the water; before he sank he called out, "Oh! where are you?" and then sank. We all called out; some men came to the spot. Mr Joshua Farrar Ranson came up, and jumped in and rescued James Morrison. I was dressing, and saw Morrison lying on the grass. Joshua Farrar Ranson, living at Boss hall, said: I was yesterday evening, about seven o'clock, at a distance from the house, about three fields, when I heard some boys shrieking out for help. I could not then see them, but came forward and ran up to the spot, where I found several school lads; they said there was somebody drowning, and I could see something like a body in the water. I took off my coat and boots and jumped in. I saw the lad James Morrison sinking, and caught hold of him and dragged him ashore. He was about twelve or thirteen. He had been under water several times, but had struggled. I thought he was quite dead, he being perfectly insensible. As soon as I got him out, the boys screamed out that Mr Buck was at the bottom. I then stripped off my trowsers and waistcoat, and went in after him, but had to dive many times before I could find him. I was getting very weak, and sent for a plough-line, which I tied round me. I found him in a hole about nine feet deep; I got him up and ashore; he was perfectly insensible. From the time I heard the cries to the time I got him up must have been ten minutes, and he was under the water the whole time. I stripped him, and sent for a blanket, wrapped him in it, and brought him here. I had sent for a surgeon, and Mr Johnson came up soon after I had laid him on the grass; he tried to restore animation from a quarter to half an hour, but in vain.

The jury then returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned." The highest praise is due to Mr Ranson, for his conduct on the occasion; and it has been mentioned that a medal from the Royal Humane society would be no more than an appropriate reward for his intrepid exertions. We are sorry to add, that Mr Buck has left a family of eight children, six of his own, and two orphans to whom he has been a true and affectionate parent.—*Suffolk Chronicle.*

EXECUTION AT STAFFORD.—On Saturday morning, at 8 o'clock, the extreme sentence of the law was carried into effect at the Stafford county gaol, on William Beards, who was found guilty at the late assizes of the murder of Elizabeth Griffiths, at the village of Wednesbury, on Saturday the 16th of last March. His trial was a lengthened and remarkable one, having lasted two entire days, and remarkable for the chain of circumstantial evidence, which seemed to fix upon the prisoner the awful crime of which he was accused. After his condemnation, he for a time declared his utter innocence of the offence for which he was doomed to die; at last, through the exertions of the ordinary of the prison, he was induced to make a full confession. He said that he went on the day named to Mr Crowther's house, where the unfortunate woman was servant, to seek for work. The insolent and irritating behaviour of the woman, however (her master being out), so exasperated him, that in a fit of passion, he struck her on the head with a hammer, and afterwards cut her throat, and robbed the house. His last moments having arrived, he was conducted to the scaffold erected on the summit of the front of the gaol, the open space beneath containing an immense multitude. The executioner having adjusted the rope, the fatal bolt was then withdrawn, and, after a few seconds, the wretched murderer ceased to exist.

MURDERS.—Jane Miller, the wife of a cotton-spinner at Manchester, was murdered on Wednesday morning. She was left in the house with Evans, a lodger, a dissipated young man; and when her husband came home to dinner, he found her lying dead in a closet, with her skull fractured. Evans had disappeared, taking with him a quantity of property from the house.—The Thomas Bennett, Halsey, master, sailed from Liverpool on the 3rd, for Charleston; and when she had got as far as the Bay of Biscay, a dispute arose between the master and the cook; in the course of which, it is said, Mr Halsey presented a pistol, and seemed about to murder the man. The cook immediately drew a knife, and stabbed the master in the back and in other parts of the body, so that he died at once. The crew secured the cook, kept the mangled remains of the captain on board, and have brought the vessel back to Liverpool, where the murderer was taken into custody.—A mysterious murder was committed last Saturday, at High Eighton, in the county of Durham. Two men were proceeding along a potato field which they were watching, depredations having been recently committed there, when a man fired a pistol from behind a hedge, and killed one of them. The man's breast and heart were shattered and torn: no fewer than 187 shots were found in his body. The criminal has not yet been captured.

IRELAND.

The Lord-lieutenant of Ireland (at the recommendation, it is said, of Lord De Grey) has appointed Mr Kelly, a Roman catholic gentleman, to be stipendiary magistrate of Galway county. Though not a repealer, Mr Kelly is described as mostly concurring in the political views of those who profess his creed in Ireland.

THE STATE TRIALS.—The following notice has been served on the attornies for O'Connell and others:—"O'Connell and others *v.* the Queen.—I beg to acquaint you that the above causes will be taken into further consideration on Monday, the 2nd Sept. next, at ten o'clock; and the judges then to attend and deliver their opinions upon the question of law propounded to them.—Edward Parrott, clerk of the journals.—House of Lords, Aug. 10, 1844."

We understand that among the visitors at Richmond prison yesterday (Friday), and at the Conciliation hall on Monday, was Mr Vincent, once so remarkable for his sustainment of the chartist movement in England and Scotland. This gentleman has, however, for a considerable time, withdrawn himself decisively from any association with the dupes of Feargus O'Connor, and identified himself energetically with the peaceful and crimeless party of Joseph Sturge, of Birmingham, that genuine patriot and philanthropist.—*Nation.*

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.—Not only is the country tranquil, but the people seem determined to avoid all temptation to outrage or insubordination. The *Galway Vindicator* mentions a very gratifying illustration of this spirit among the peasantry. On Tuesday evening a fellow, who had been some days in that town, obtruded himself at a meeting of the temperance society, and, says that journal, "commenced an harangue of the most treasonable and seditious tendency, advising the people to an appeal to arms, in furtherance of the liberation of O'Connell and their legislative independence, until he was cut short in his address by a rough and speedy ejectment from the room."

Arrangements are being made to secure the return of all the state prisoners as members of the Dublin town council at the ensuing municipal elections.—*Dublin Monitor.*

THE LAND COMMISSION.—The labours of the commissioners have at length commenced in what may be fairly called the head-quarters of the inquiry—Tipperary, the field of so many bloody tragedies, the great bulk of them originating in disputes relating to the tenure of land and the occupancy thereof. And here is the reception the commission meets at Nenagh, in the North Riding, as described on local repeal authority—the *Vindicator* :—

"Lord Devon and his brothers, Sir Robert Ferguson, Mr Redington, and Mr Wynne, and Mr Kennedy, the secretary, opened their commission in the county court house yesterday morning. Never was there such a scene of desolation—never such an exhibition of desertion—never such a proof of the triumph of opinion in condemning this monstrous but expensive delusion, and those who belong to it. Even ordinary curiosity was not excited. Lord Devon had not the magnetic influence to attract the notice of a single individual. Mr Redington, the disowned of Dundalk, was in a similar predicament. As to Sir R. Ferguson and Mr Wynne, why no one bestowed a passing thought upon them. The hall of the court house was literally without an occupant—not more than two or three individuals were to be seen in the passage leading to the mysterious chamber in which these puissant commissioners carried on their impenetrable investigation. The gentry, as was to have been expected, were nowhere. There was not a landed proprietor to be seen in any direction—there was no invitation—even the hospitable mansion of the Lord of Kilboy had not its portals open for these mighty men. The farmers, great and small, kept away, impressed with the conviction that their attendance was utterly useless. There were a few witnesses examined—those who were recommended by the board of guardians. What the nature of their testimony was we do not know, and we cannot tell; nor is it, in our humble judgment, any consequence to them or to the public. One fact is conclusive—and the oftener it is repeated the better—the commission has excited no interest; it is of no avail; it is impossible that it can be viewed in any other light than as a delusion of the most objectionable character. If it were meant as a serious inquiry, it could not possibly be gone through in a few hours; it should take days, at least, perhaps weeks here. But the people understand perfectly well what it is, and they have proved their appreciation of it by the manner in which it has been received in this quarter."

IRISH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—LORD ERNE AND MR S. O'BRIEN.—An unusual scene occurred at the banquet held in Dublin, last week, by the members of this society, after the show of cattle and implements. It is thus related by the *Times* :—"Lord Erne rose to return thanks for 'the resident landlords of Ireland.' His lordship, carried by a zeal which, though natural, was not discreet, beyond the boundary of agricultural speeches in general, spoke strongly in defence of the class to which he belongs, against the imaginary attacks of absent foes; from defence he warmed into eulogy; and from eulogy of his friends into general abuse of the repealers. Now, this was an ill-advised step. It was not only in direct opposition to the fundamental rules of the society, but equally at variance with the dictates of good taste, as several leading repealers were present at the dinner, two of whom, Mr Smith O'Brien and Mr Maher, immediately rose and left the dinner, amid cheering, groans, and all the usual uproar of a disconcerted festival. The next day there was a great hubbub about Lord Erne's political ebullitions: Mr Smith O'Brien sent to know what it meant; the council of the society was convoked; they did not exactly know how to explain it, when Lord Erne magnanimously solved their difficulty, by telling them that he had never meant anything at all. So Mr S. O'Brien did not resign; and the Irish Agricultural Society, with its co-operative union of every Irish class, creed, and party, continues to represent the harmony of the "Happy Family."

At Cork Thomas Collins pleaded guilty to "having upon his person at Fermoy certain seditious papers, which he introduced into the houses of innocent persons, and afterwards swore informations against them." He was also indicted for vagrancy, and found guilty. He was sentenced to seven years' transportation for each offence.

SCOTLAND.

SCOTTISH POLITICAL MARTYRS.—In addition to the particulars in last week's paper, we learn from the *Edinburgh Weekly Chronicle*, that Sir James Gibson Craig, bart., is to preside at the dinner after the laying of the foundation stone of the monument to Muir, Palmer, Skirving, Gerrald, and Margarot, by Mr Hume, to-day. Several distinguished strangers are expected, among whom we may mention the Rev. Patrick Brewster and Mr Vincent. We understand, too, that some hopes are entertained that Mr Sturge and Mr W. Sharman Crawford will be present. The gentleman first named will probably deliver an oration on the Calton hill, in honour of the political martyrs; and at the banquet in the evening he, as well as Mr Vincent and Mr Hume, are expected to deliver addresses. We anticipate much gratification from the proceedings.

Not fewer than 10,000 Irish reapers have this week passed through this city for the Lothians.—*Glasgow Saturday Post.*

DRUNKENNESS.—Returns moved for by Mr Hume show that the maximum amount of persons taken into custody for drunkenness, by the metropolitan police, is to be found in the years 1831, 1832, and 1833, and the minimum in 1843. In 1831 they were, males and females, 31,353; 1832, 32,636; 1833, 29,880. In 1843 the number of persons taken into custody for drunkenness fell to 10,890, which, taking the census of 1841, say 2,068,107, was in the proportion of little more than 1 in every 100. In the city of London also the same gratifying result is shown. In 1840 the numbers were 5,113. In 1843 the numbers were 2,595, which, taking the official estimated population at 125,273, was in the ratio of 2¼ to every 100.

EVERYBODY'S COLUMN.

The Glasgow papers compute that there were not fewer than 100,000 visitors in Glasgow last week, to witness the proceedings of the Highland and Agricultural society.

It has been rumoured that the pensioners of the navy and marines are to be enrolled on the same system as those of Chelsea hospital.—*United Service Gazette.*

PROCLAMATION AGAINST WOMEN.—In the year 1517, a proclamation was issued that women should not meet together to babble and talk; and that all men should keep their wives in their houses.—*Hume.*

Sir R. Sale and Sir W. Nott were entertained at a public dinner at the City of London Tavern, on Wednesday evening, by the directors of the East India company.

It appears, from the balance sheet just published, that the expenditure during the past year was £50,777,427 12s. 3d., and the income £52,547,508 1s. 11d., showing an excess of income over expenditure of £1,770,080 9s. 8d.

The spirited inhabitants of Rochdale are about to broach the subject of public walks and pleasure grounds, and we doubt not that they will do it effectually.

One hundred acres of bog, near Listowell, is offered to young farm labourers, in lots of ten acres, free of charge, for seven years, if they bring it into cultivation.

LEECHES.—From a return made by the Custom house at Grenoble for the first six months of the present year, it appears that 5,660,800 leeches have been imported into France.

Mr D'Israeli, M.P., has given ten guineas to the Duncombe testimonial.

On Monday evening an inquest was held on the body of a young lady, in London, who died from the effects of tight lacing.

The accounts received of harvest throughout France are in general favourable. Some damage has, however been caused in the northern parts by the late rains.

GILBERT UNIONS.—By a recent parliamentary return, it seems there are at present fourteen unions or incorporations under the 22nd Geo. III. c. 83, which have not been dissolved, and sixty-two which have been dissolved.

Carisbrooke castle, in the Isle of Wight, a structure rich in historic recollections, and the scene of the confinement of the unfortunate Charles I. a few months prior to his execution, is about to be sold by auction.

A Romish "cathedral" on a larger and more magnificent scale than any built in England since the Reformation, has been recently erected in Nottingham, and will be opened on Wednesday.

At the Cambridge assizes, there came before the grand jury, and which will be tried next assizes, a bill of indictment *about sixteen feet long*, against certain parties for refusing to obey an order of the justices to pay a church rate.

The Prince de Joinville completed, on the 14th inst., his 27th year. He will be promoted to the rank of Vice-admiral on his return from the expedition against Morocco.

The Manchester testimonial to Mr Rowland Hill exceeds £1,000.

The Chinese are physically superior to the nations and tribes among whom they settle. A Chinese is at least two inches taller than a Siamese, and by three inches taller than a Cochin Chinese, a Malay, or a Javanese, and his frame is proportionally stronger and better built.—*Capt. Pidding's Chinese Olio.*

HIRING OUT NEWSPAPERS FOR PERUSAL.—The penalty for this offence is £5. by the act 29, Geo. III. c. 50.

A Post office clerk named Nicholson was sentenced to be transported for ten years, at the Carlisle Assizes, having been convicted of embezzling a money letter containing £30.

The imprudence of carrying an umbrella during a thunder storm was exemplified a few days back. Two workmen were overtaken by a violent storm near Schlidt, in Switzerland, and covered themselves with an umbrella. It acted as a conductor, for the electric fluid, running down the stick, killed the man who held it, and slightly injured the other.

Under the long regency of Biren, in Russia, twenty thousand individuals were banished to Siberia for political crimes. The Emperor Nicholas, on the lowest computation, has sent on the same weary journey two hundred and fifty thousand—a quarter of a million of individuals! Of these, three-fifths had offended politically, in some direct or indirect manner.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.—The forthcoming meeting will be held at York, on the 26th of September.

LETTER OPENING.—The following table, taken from the House of Commons report, shows the number of warrants which have been issued in each year, commencing from 1822, when a record of them first began to be kept at the post office :—

1822....12	1830....14	1838.... 8
1823.... 7	1831....17	1839....16
1824 . . 2	1832.... 5	1840.... 7
1825.... 6	1833.... 4	1841....18
1826.... 8	1834.... 6	1842....20
1827.... 8	1835.... 7	1843.... 8
1828 ... 4	1836... 7	1844.... 7
1829.... 5	1837.... 4	

The excess of warrants in 1839 was the result of the riots at Newport, and that in 1842 of the disturbances in the manufacturing districts.

Literature.

Memoirs and Trials of the Political Martyrs of Scotland; persecuted during the Years 1793 and 1794. William Tait, Edinburgh. Simpkin, Marshall, and Co., London.

ON this day will be fulfilled in Edinburgh the prediction uttered by William Skirving, one of the political martyrs of Scotland, previous to his condemnation—"My lords, I know that what has been done these two days *will be re-judged:* this is my comfort and all my hope." The free citizens of Edinburgh will, to-day, vindicate the character of the persecuted patriots of 1793-4, and prove their devotion to the great cause to which Muir, Palmer, Skirving, Gerrald, Margarot, and, we may add, Burns—men of whom their own day was not worthy—were martyrs, by laying the foundation-stone of a monument to perpetuate and enshrine their memory. It is to be feared that but little, save their names, is generally known of this noble band of constitutional reformers. Nor is this to be wondered at, when it is recollected the imprisonment of Daniel O'Connell—the greatest political martyr of our own or any other period of history—creates in this country an interest and indignation quite disproportionate to the injustice of the act, and to the great principles violated by his incarceration. To dispel this ignorance is the object of the cheap publication before us. The main substance of it appeared some time since in that staunch advocate of universal freedom—*Tait's Magazine.* Other matter was afterwards added, and the whole published as a cheap pamphlet for general circulation. Those who desire a complete history of the "reign of terror," which prevailed in Scotland during 1793-4, we refer to the book itself. On the present occasion we can do little more than state one or two facts, and make a few extracts in illustration of the character and principles of the political martyrs of that day, with a view to vindicate their title, not merely to the honour which the erection of an earthly monument is intended to confer, but to be enshrined in every heart warm with the life-blood of freedom, as examples of heroic fortitude and suffering for the truth's sake.

Thomas Muir and Thomas Fyshe Palmer were the first victims of the political persecution which, in 1793, prevailed throughout Scotland. Muir was a successful advocate at the Scottish bar, distinguished for his talents, eloquence, the affability of his manners, the purity of his life, and his enthusiastic attachment to the principles of freedom. He was one of the first originators of a society which went by the name of "The Friends of the People," formed to co-operate with the reformers in London "to accomplish an equal representation of the people in parliament," and to obtain "a shorter duration of parliamentary delegation." The London society then reckoned among its leading members Mr, now Earl, Grey, Sir William Jones, Fox, Whitbread, with Sir James Mackintosh for secretary. In December, 1792, a convention of the friends of reform in Scotland was held at Edinburgh. This was speedily followed by the arrest of Muir on a charge of sedition. Muir escaped to France, but subsequently returned to his native land, where he was soon recognised, and retaken. In August he was tried before the Scotch judges, at the head of whom was the notorious Lord Justice Clerk Braxfield, on the charge of lending several works of a republican tendency, and reading an address from the society of United Irishmen to the Edinburgh convention. It would be useless here to enter upon the details of this infamous trial, conducted before a jury packed from the members of a society similar to the Orange associations of Ireland—a trial in which the forms and spirit of justice were openly set at defiance, and the prisoner and his witnesses browbeaten, interrupted, and insulted. The infamy of the proceedings can only be properly understood by reading the whole of the report. Among the witnesses produced against the prisoner were his own maid-servant and hair-dresser! Muir defended himself in a long, able, and eloquent address, concluding in the following terms:—

"What, then, has been my crime? Not the lending to a relation a copy of Mr Paine's works—not the giving away to another a few numbers of an innocent and constitutional publication—but my crime is for having dared to be, according to the measure of my feeble abilities, a strenuous and an active advocate for an equal representation of the people in the House of the People—for having dared to accomplish a measure, by legal means, which was to diminish the weight of their taxes, and to put an end to the profusion of their blood. Gentlemen, from my infancy to this moment, I have devoted myself to the cause of the people. It is a good cause—it shall ultimately prevail—it shall finally triumph. Say, then, openly in your verdict—if you do condemn me, which I presume you will not—that it is for my attachment to this cause alone, and not for those vain and wretched pretexts stated in the indictment, intended only to colour and disguise the real motives of my accusation."

He was sentenced to transportation for fourteen years, and removed to Edinburgh jail (where he was daily visited by crowds of reformers), from thence to the hulks, and last of all to a transport

ship, containing eighty-three convicts, which carried him to Botany Bay.

Mr Palmer was the next victim of the government prosecution. "He was an Englishman, and the pastor of a small Unitarian congregation in Dundee—a gentleman and a scholar, refined in mind and polished in manners; but he was also a sincere lover of his race—a true friend of the people." He was condemned to seven years' transportation for circulating an address of which the following is the most seditious passage:—

"Is not every new day adding a new link to our chains? Is not the executive branch daily seizing new, unprecedented, and unwarrantable powers? Has not the House of Commons (your only security from the evils of tyranny and aristocracy) joined the coalition against you? Is the election of its members either free, fair, or frequent? Is not its independence gone, while it is made up of pensioners and placemen? * * * We are not deterred or disappointed by the decision of the House of Commons concerning our petition. It is a question we did not expect (though founded on truth and reason) could be supported by superior numbers. Far from being discouraged, we are more and more convinced that nothing can save this nation from ruin, and give to the people that happiness they have a right to look for under government, but a reform in the House of Commons, founded on the eternal basis of justice—free and equal."

The summary punishment inflicted on Muir and Palmer did not quell the courage of the friends of the people. In October, 1793, the convention met again, now first assuming the name of the British Convention. Gerrald and Margarot arrived as delegates from London; and delegates were sent by the London Reform Society, Birmingham, Sheffield, and other places. After a short sitting the convention was dispersed:

"The scene, at the final dispersion of the convention, was very striking. The meetings of the convention, in compliance with the spirit of the members, had always been opened and closed with prayer. A strong vein of enthusiastic piety runs through especially the rural speeches and addresses of the period. They are full of Hebraisms, and of those turns of phrase peculiar to the covenanters. Religion, since become rather of good fashion among the tories, was certainly not the characteristic of the bold cavaliers of the profligate reign of Dundas; but the leading reformers were generally 'crop-eared, sniveling, praying knaves.' A good many of the delegates were dissenting clergymen. Muir, young as he was, had been an elder of the kirk; Skirving was educated for a dissenting minister, and was a sincerely pious man; and, when the brilliant Gerrald came to join the puritans of Scotland, he disguised the high-bred gentleman and accomplished scholar under the sober garb of a quaker, and, at the era of pig-tails and hair powder, wore his long hair in the primitive fashion of that sect. On the last night, Gerrald requested leave to pray as in ordinary sittings, before the convention was finally dispersed by authority. The sheriff granted permission; and he, and the few persons with him, for his main force was stationed without doors, uncovered, and stood mixed with the delegates, while Gerrald uttered this remarkable prayer—

"'O thou governor of the universe! we rejoice that, at all times and in all circumstances, we have liberty to approach thy throne; and that we are assured that no sacrifice is more acceptable to thee, than that which is made for the relief of the oppressed. In this moment of trial and persecution, we pray that thou wouldst be our defender, our counsellor, and our guide. Oh, be thou a pillar of fire to us, as thou wast to our fathers of old, to enlighten and to direct us; and to our enemies a pillar of cloud, and darkness, and confusion.

"'Thou art thyself the great patron of liberty. Thy service is perfect freedom. Prosper, we beseech thee, every endeavour which we make to promote thy cause; for we consider the cause of truth, or every cause which tends to promote the happiness of thy creatures, as thy cause.

"'O thou merciful father of mankind, enable us for thy name's sake to endure persecution with fortitude; and may we believe that all trials and tribulations of life which we endure, shall work together for good to them that love thee; and grant that, the greater the evil, and the longer it may be continued, the greater good, in thy holy and adorable providence, may be produced therefrom. And this we beg, not for our own merits, but through the merits of Him who is hereafter to judge the world in righteousness and mercy.'

"The thrilling power of this prayer, at a moment of great excitement, was long spoken of by the auditors as something superhuman. When the delegates left the loft, and descended in groups to the open air, the agitated crowd, and the whole scene—St Leonard's at hand, and Arthur's seat and Salisbury crags in the distance—lighted by the flaring flambeaux of the sheriff's waiting train, was wild and striking.

"'Behold!' cried Gerrald, 'the funeral torches of liberty!'"

Skirving was arrested on the same night the convention was dispersed: Gerrald, Margarot, and Sinclair had been previously arrested, and were now on bail; and every hour brought its terrors in domiciliary visits, temporary arrests, and the seizure of papers. Skirving, who, like the rest of this noble band of reformers, appears to have been a highly-educated man, and in prosperous circumstances, was tried in January, 1794, convicted, and sentenced to fourteen years' imprisonment. "Joseph Gerrald was undoubtedly the most brilliant of this band of martyrs. He was one of those rare characters, combining the highest powers of intellect with their noblest direction, that arise but once in a generation. The impassioned eloquence and enthusiastic patriotism of Gerrald gave a strong impulse to the reformers of Scotland. In Edinburgh in particular, the young and ardent crowded around him night and day during his brief sojourn, hanging upon his glowing words as upon the accents of inspiration." His address to the jury is a master-piece of dignified, fervent eloquence. We give one short extract as a specimen:—

"It is a very melancholy consideration in the present times, and it is with a mixture of grief and astonishment I speak it, that the very same kind of arguments which, at the dawn of the reformation, were made use of by the catholic clergy, who were endeavouring to hold the people in the fetters of superstition, are now made use of by those very persons who, for purposes equally selfish, are repressing the progress of political information. Cardinal Bellarmine, a man eminent for learning, but vehement in his opposition of religious reformation, declaims particularly against the impious attempt to diffuse knowledge among the lower classes, and to lay open the *Holy Scriptures to vulgar eyes*. Religion in those days, it seems, like government in the present, was to be believed and confided in without being examined. Oh, preposterous insult to the dignity of human reason! Oh, blasphemy against the Author of all goodness! As if the Parent of knowledge were capable of giving a revelation to his creatures, to be adopted for ages by millions of reasonable beings, that would not stand the test of human inquiry! The true religion, like all free governments, appeals to the understanding for its support, and not to the sword. All systems, whether civil or moral, can only be durable in proportion as they are founded on truth, and calculated to promote the GOOD OF MANKIND. This will account to us why governments suited to the great energies of man have always outlived the perishable things which despotism has erected. Yes! this will account to us why the stream of time, which is continually washing away the dissoluble fabrics of all superstitious impostures, passes, without injury, by the adamant of Christianity."

"Those who are versed in the history of their country, in the history of the human race, must know that rigorous state prosecutions have always preceded the era of convulsion; and this era, I fear, will be accelerated by the folly and madness of our rulers. If the people are discontented, the proper mode of quieting their discontent is, not by instituting rigorous and sanguinary prosecutions, but by redressing their wrongs and conciliating their affections. Courts of justice, indeed, may be called in to the aid of ministerial vengeance; but if once the purity of their proceedings is suspected, they will cease to be objects of reverence to the nation; they will degenerate into empty and expensive pageantry, and become the partial instruments of vexatious oppression. Whatever may become of me, my principles will last for ever. Individuals may perish; but truth is eternal. The rude blasts of tyranny may blow from every quarter; but freedom is that hardy plant which will survive the tempest, and strike an everlasting root into the most unfavourable soil.

* * * * *

"Gentlemen, I am in your hands. About my life I feel not the slightest anxiety; if it would promote the cause, I would cheerfully make the sacrifice; for, if I perish on an occasion like the present, out of my ashes will arise a flame to consume the tyrants and oppressors of my country."

In this powerful address Gerrald anticipated every argument which has since been brought against the demands of reformers, and established every claim they have set up for free government. The *Quarterly Review* described it, "on the authority of a hearer of no common discernment, as an effort of oratory unrivaled in its kind, such as drew tears from the presiding judge." While in the hulks, Gerrald received the following touching letter from his warm-hearted friend, Dr Parr:—

"DEAR JOSEPH—I hear with indignation and horror that the severe sentence passed upon you in Scotland is shortly to be carried into execution; and, remembering that I was once your master, that I have long been your friend—that I am your fellow-creature, made so by the hand of God—and that by every law of that religion in which I hope to live and die, I ought to be your comforter—now, dear Joseph, I am, for the last time, writing to you. Oh, my friend! at this moment, my heart sinks within me; and with a wish to say ten thousand things, I am hardly able to say one. But you shall not leave this land without one affectionate, one sincere, one solemn farewell. Joseph, before we meet again, that bosom which now throbs for you, that tongue which dictates, will be laid in the cold grave. Be it so; yet, my dear friend, I must cherish the hope that death is not the end of a being such as man. No, Joseph, no; there is a moral government going on, and, in the course of it, our afflictions will cease, and compensation will be made us, I trust, for all our unmerited sufferings. There is another world and a better; and in that world I pray to God that I may meet your face again. Bear up, I beseech you, against the hard and cruel oppression which the evil spirit of these days, and your own want of discretion, have brought upon you. Mackintosh has informed me of all that which is about to happen, and I have done all that I can in your favour. Let me conjure you, dear Joseph, to conduct yourself not only with firmness but calmness. Do not, do not by turbulence in conversation or action, give your enemies occasion to make the cup of misery more bitter. . . . . I do not mean, dear Joseph, to reproach you;—no, such an intention, at such a crisis, is and ought to be very far from my heart; but I do mean to advise you, and excite you to such a use of your talents as may console you under the sorrows of this life, and prepare you effectually for what is to follow. I will send you a few books, in addition to other matters; they will cheer you in the dreary hours of that forlorn spot to which the inhuman governors of this land are about to send you. Some time ago, I saw your dear boy; and depend upon it, that, for his sake and your own, I will show him every kindness in my power. I shall often think of you. Yes, Joseph, and there are moments, too, in which I shall pray for you. Farewell, dear Joseph Gerrald, and believe me your most unfeigned and afflicted friend,

"S. PARR.

"Pray write to me.—God Almighty bless you! Joseph! Farewell!"

This noble-minded, gifted, and devoted young man survived his trial but a short time. The confinement of a jail, and subsequently of the hulks and transport ship, together with the effects of being associated with the offscouring of society—burglars, thieves, and homicides—at Botany Bay, soon broke down his already shattered frame. He died in the spring of the year 1796. Muir, Palmer, Skirving, and Margarot were all shipped off to the penal settlement in the same convict ship, and were active in suppressing a mutiny of the convicts during the passage out. They were treated with much kindness by Captain Hunter, governor of the colony. Among other interesting facts relative to these noble men it is related, "that Muir used to print portions of scripture with his pen, which he gave away in the manner he considered most useful."

We trust we have said enough to commend the memory of these devoted patriots to the admiration and sympathy of our readers, as well as to prove how much they are entitled to the honour with which the citizens of Edinburgh intend to associate their memories. In condemnation of these trials, and vindication of their victims, we might have cited the declared sentiments of Mr Fox, Earl Grey, Lord Holland, Mr Sheridan, and other distinguished statesmen. This we consider quite superfluous. Their best vindication is their own actions. The erection of a monument to such men is as honourable to the citizens of Edinburgh as it is to these martyred patriots.

The Norwich Tune Book: a Collection of Psalm and Hymn Tunes, from the works of the most Eminent Composers; together with many that have never been published. Selected by a Committee, and arranged in Four Parts by JAMES T. HILL, Professor of Music, and JOHN HILL, Conductor of the Norwich Choral Society. London: Hamilton and Co. Norwich: Jarrold and Sons.

SUCH is the title page of a new contribution to the rather numerous than valuable additions to congregational psalmody which have, of late, put forward their claims to public attention. The programme is inviting, and calculated to raise high our expectations. The very name of Norwich is as much identified with excellence in music as its neighbour Yarmouth (a somewhat debasing comparison, we must admit) with the superiority of a certain piquant, appetising sauce. Its Choral society and oratorios would seem to be under the special guardianship of Melpomene herself. We, consequently, opened this book with the expectation of meeting not merely with excellence, but with something that would sustain the claims of that city to be regarded as the favoured abode of that muse. Nor, assuming, as we did, the austere garb of the public censor—determined to be critically nice—could we find aught in the volume before us to injure its fair fame. On the contrary, the work bears internal evidence of the equal care, judgment, and taste expended on its compilation. In the preface we are informed—"The great object aimed at by the committee has been to prepare a book containing such tunes only as are suited to divine worship, carefully avoiding the dull and unimpressive, as well as the fugue and the frivolous, and inserting those which are simple, dignified, and melodious, and adapted to all the variety of hymns which are accustomed to be sung by a congregation." The volume "contains 250 tunes, many of which have been selected from expensive works of professors eminent in musical talent, and many others have been courteously presented by gentlemen whose attention has been much devoted to the improvement of psalmody." The selections from our old standard tunes have been eminently judicious, and, in place of those monstrous abortions—conspicuous only in their worthlessness—which have found their way into most of our modern collections, we have a considerable number of genuine tunes, adapted from the works of great musical composers, as well as a few—and these not the least valuable—composed by the eminent compilers of the volume. One fault we cannot forbear noticing. Several time-honoured melodies, deserved favourites with the public, appear under a new name. For example, the tune which most people would recognise under the name of Chester has become Dover. The reason of this we cannot divine. Chester is, to our apprehension, as good a name as Dover.

"Sound it, it doth become the mouth as well:
Weigh it, it is as heavy."

This is only one of many equally frivolous innovations we have noticed. It is rather too bad that old and valued friends should, without apparent reason, be put into a disguise in which no one can recognise them, and old associations be ruthlessly severed in order that, for some inconceivable purpose, "tweedledum" may become "tweedledee." We would, therefore, advise that, in these cases, if opportunity occur (and we doubt not it will), the divorce should be annulled and the marriage re-celebrated.

BIRTHS.

Aug. 14, at the College house, Masbrough, the wife of Mr H. STOWELL, of a daughter.

Aug. 14, at Swansea, the wife of Mr G. THORNE, officer of excise, of a daughter.

Aug. 15, at Bedford, Mrs JAMES COOMBS, of a son and heir.

Aug. 16, the wife of Mr JOHN WILLIAMS, baptist minister, Hunslet, of two daughters.

MARRIAGES.

Aug. 5, at the Gallowtree Gate chapel, Leicester, by Mr G. Legge, A.M., JAMES M'DOUGAL, draper, of this town, to Miss ANN, only daughter of Mr John WILFORD, Sealford, in this county.

Aug. 9, at the independent chapel, Stansfield, T. E. SPACKMAN, Esq., of London, to MARY ANN, youngest daughter of William RAYNER, Esq., of Stradishall place, Suffolk.

Aug. 13, at Carey street chapel, Torquay, by Mr Orange, Miss CAWDLE, of Torre, daughter of the late Mr John Cawdle, to Mr HENRY KELLAGREW, son of Mr Kellagrew, of Cockington, South Devon.

Aug. 13, at the independent chapel, Throop, near Christchurch, by Mr D. Gunn, Mr CHARLES WILLS, B.A., minister of Throop chapel, to Miss ELIZA PRUDENCE ALDRIDGE, eldest daughter of Matthew Aldridge, Esq. of Musceliff.

Aug. 15, at York street chapel, Walworth, by Mr George Clayton, Mr WILLIAM M'KEWAN, of Surrey place, Old Kent road, to ANN, second daughter of Mr John COX, of the East India House.

Aug. 17, at Buckland chapel, Portsea, by Mr A. Jones, Mr ANDREWARTHA, to Miss E. BARHAM; also Mr JOHNSON, to Miss S. M. BARHAM, of Portsea.

DEATHS.

Aug. 12, aged 82, at Sherston Magna, Wilts, much respected by all who knew him, Mr THOMAS DEVERELL, for many years a deacon of the independent church of this place. His end was peace.

Aug. 14, at Chigwell row, CHARLOTTE, the beloved wife of Mr THOMAS HILL, dissenting minister, aged 26 years.

THE LAND COMMISSION.—The labours of the commissioners have at length commenced in what may be fairly called the head-quarters of the inquiry—Tipperary, the field of so many bloody tragedies, the great bulk of them originating in disputes relating to the tenure of land and the occupancy thereof. And here is the reception the commission meets at Nenagh, in the North Riding, as described on local repeal authority—the *Vindicator*:—

"Lord Devon and his brothers, Sir Robert Ferguson, Mr Redington, and Mr Wynne, and Mr Kennedy, the secretary, opened their commission in the county court house yesterday morning. Never was there such a scene of desolation—never such an exhibition of desertion—never such a proof of the triumph of opinion in condemning this monstrous but expensive delusion, and those who belong to it. Even ordinary curiosity was not excited. Lord Devon had not the magnetic influence to attract the notice of a single individual. Mr Redington, the disowned of Dundalk, was in a similar predicament. As to Sir R. Ferguson and Mr Wynne, why no one bestowed a passing thought upon them. The hall of the court house was literally without an occupant—not more than two or three individuals were to be seen in the passage leading to the mysterious chamber in which these puissant commissioners carried on their impenetrable investigation. The gentry, as was to have been expected, were nowhere. There was not a landed proprietor to be seen in any direction—there was no invitation—even the hospitable mansion of the Lord of Kilboy had not its portals open for these mighty men. The farmers, great and small, kept away, impressed with the conviction that their attendance was utterly useless. There were a few witnesses examined—those who were recommended by the board of guardians. What the nature of their testimony was we do not know, and we cannot tell; nor is it, in our humble judgment, any consequence to them or to the public. One fact is conclusive—and the oftener it is repeated the better—the commission has excited no interest; it is of no avail; it is impossible that it can be viewed in any other light than as a delusion of the most objectionable character. If it were meant as a serious inquiry, it could not possibly be gone through in a few hours; it should take days, at least, perhaps weeks here. But the people understand perfectly well what it is, and they have proved their appreciation of it by the manner in which it has been received in this quarter."

IRISH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—LORD ERNE AND MR S. O'BRIEN.—An unusual scene occurred at the banquet held in Dublin, last week, by the members of this society, after the show of cattle and implements. It is thus related by the *Times*:—"Lord Erne rose to return thanks for 'the resident landlords of Ireland.' His lordship, carried by a zeal which, though natural, was not discreet, beyond the boundary of agricultural speeches in general, spoke strongly in defence of the class to which he belongs, against the imaginary attacks of absent foes; from defence he warmed into eulogy; and from eulogy of his friends into general abuse of the repealers. Now, this was an ill-advised step. It was not only in direct opposition to the fundamental rules of the society, but equally at variance with the dictates of good taste, as several leading repealers were present at the dinner, two of whom, Mr Smith O'Brien and Mr Maher, immediately rose and left the dinner, amid cheering, groans, and all the usual uproar of a disconcerted festival. The next day there was a great hubbub about Lord Erne's political ebullitions: Mr Smith O'Brien sent to know what it meant; the council of the society was convoked; they did not exactly know how to explain it, when Lord Erne magnanimously solved their difficulty, by telling them that he had never meant anything at all. So Mr S. O'Brien did not resign; and the Irish Agricultural Society, with its co-operative union of every Irish class, creed, and party, continues to represent the harmony of the "Happy Family."

At Cork Thomas Collins pleaded guilty to "having upon his person at Fermoy certain seditious papers, which he introduced into the houses of innocent persons, and afterwards swore informations against them." He was also indicted for vagrancy, and found guilty. He was sentenced to seven years' transportation for each offence.

SCOTLAND.

SCOTTISH POLITICAL MARTYRS.—In addition to the particulars in last week's paper, we learn from the *Edinburgh Weekly Chronicle*, that Sir James Gibson Craig, bart., is to preside at the dinner after the laying of the foundation stone of the monument to Muir, Palmer, Skirving, Gerrald, and Margarot, by Mr Hume, to-day. Several distinguished strangers are expected, among whom we may mention the Rev. Patrick Brewster and Mr Vincent. We understand, too, that some hopes are entertained that Mr Sturge and Mr W. Sharman Crawford will be present. The gentleman first named will probably deliver an oration on the Calton hill, in honour of the political martyrs; and at the banquet in the evening he, as well as Mr Vincent and Mr Hume, are expected to deliver addresses. We anticipate much gratification from the proceedings.

Not fewer than 10,000 Irish reapers have this week passed through this city for the Lothians.—*Glasgow Saturday Post.*

DRUNKENNESS.—Returns moved for by Mr Hume show that the maximum amount of persons taken into custody for drunkenness, by the metropolitan police, is to be found in the years 1831, 1832, and 1833, and the minimum in 1843. In 1831 they were, males and females, 31,353; 1832, 32,636; 1833, 29,880. In 1843 the number of persons taken into custody for drunkenness fell to 10,890, which, taking the census of 1841, say 2,068,107, was in the proportion of little more than ½ in every 100. In the city of London also the same gratifying result is shown. In 1840 the numbers were 5,113. In 1843 the numbers were 2,595, which, taking the official estimated population at 125,273, was in the ratio of 2¼ to every 100.

EVERYBODY'S COLUMN.

The Glasgow papers compute that there were not fewer than 100,000 visitors in Glasgow last week, to witness the proceedings of the Highland and Agricultural society.

It has been rumoured that the pensioners of the navy and marines are to be enrolled on the same system as those of Chelsea hospital.—*United Service Gazette.*

PROCLAMATION AGAINST WOMEN.—In the year 1517, a proclamation was issued that women should not meet together to babble and talk; and that all men should keep their wives in their houses.—*Hume.*

Sir R. Sale and Sir W. Nott were entertained at a public dinner at the City of London Tavern, on Wednesday evening, by the directors of the East India company.

It appears, from the balance sheet just published, that the expenditure during the past year was £50,777,427 12s. 3d., and the income £52,547,508 1s. 11d., showing an excess of income over expenditure of £1,770,080 9s. 8d.

The spirited inhabitants of Rochdale are about to broach the subject of public walks and pleasure grounds, and we doubt not that they will do it effectually.

One hundred acres of bog, near Listowell, is offered to young farm labourers, in lots of ten acres, free of charge, for seven years, if they bring it into cultivation.

LEECHES.—From a return made by the Custom house at Grenoble for the first six months of the present year, it appears that 5,660,800 leeches have been imported into France.

Mr D'Israeli, M.P., has given ten guineas to the Duncombe testimonial.

On Monday evening an inquest was held on the body of a young lady, in London, who died from the effects of tight lacing.

The accounts received of harvest throughout France are in general favourable. Some damage has, however been caused in the northern parts by the late rains.

GILBERT UNIONS.—By a recent parliamentary return, it seems there are at present fourteen unions or incorporations under the 22nd Geo. III. c. 83, which have not been dissolved, and sixty-two which have been dissolved.

Carisbrooke castle, in the Isle of Wight, a structure rich in historic recollections, and the scene of the confinement of the unfortunate Charles I. a few months prior to his execution, is about to be sold by auction.

A Romish "cathedral" on a larger and more magnificent scale than any built in England since the Reformation, has been recently erected in Nottingham, and will be opened on Wednesday.

At the Cambridge assizes, there came before the grand jury, and which will be tried next assizes, a bill of indictment *about sixteen feet long*, against certain parties for refusing to obey an order of the justices to pay a church rate.

The Prince de Joinville completed, on the 14th inst., his 27th year. He will be promoted to the rank of Vice-admiral on his return from the expedition against Morocco.

The Manchester testimonial to Mr Rowland Hill exceeds £1,000.

The Chinese are physically superior to the nations and tribes among whom they settle. A Chinese is at least two inches taller than a Siamese, and by three inches taller than a Cochin Chinese, a Malay, or a Javanese, and his frame is proportionally stronger and better built.—*Capt. Pidding's Chinese Olio.*

HIRING OUT NEWSPAPERS FOR PERUSAL.—The penalty for this offence is £5. by the act 29, Geo. III. c. 50.

A Post office clerk named Nicholson was sentenced to be transported for ten years, at the Carlisle Assizes, having been convicted of embezzling a money letter containing £30.

The imprudence of carrying an umbrella during a thunder storm was exemplified a few days back. Two workmen were overtaken by a violent storm near Schlidt, in Switzerland, and covered themselves with an umbrella. It acted as a conductor, for the electric fluid, running down the stick, killed the man who held it, and slightly injured the other.

Under the long regency of Biren, in Russia, twenty thousand individuals were banished to Siberia for political crimes. The Emperor Nicholas, on the lowest computation, has sent on the same weary journey two hundred and fifty thousand—a quarter of a million of individuals! Of these, three-fifths had offended politically, in some direct or indirect manner.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.—The forthcoming meeting will be held at York, on the 26th of September.

LETTER OPENING.—The following table, taken from the House of Commons report, shows the number of warrants which have been issued in each year, commencing from 1822, when a record of them first began to be kept at the post office:—

1822....12	1830....14	1838.... 8
1823.... 7	1831....17	1839....16
1824 . . 2	1832.... 5	1840.... 7
1825.... 6	1833.... 4	1841....18
1826.... 8	1834.... 6	1842....20
1827.... 8	1835.... 7	1843.... 8
1828 ... 4	1886... 7	1844.... 7
1829.... 5	1837.... 4	

The excess of warrants in 1839 was the result of the riots at Newport, and that in 1842 of the disturbances in the manufacturing districts.

Literature.

Memoirs and Trials of the Political Martyrs of Scotland: persecuted during the Years 1793 and 1794. William Tait, Edinburgh. Simpkin, Marshall, and Co., London.

ON this day will be fulfilled in Edinburgh the prediction uttered by William Skirving, one of the political martyrs of Scotland, previous to his condemnation—"My lords, I know that what has been done these two days *will be re-judged:* this is my comfort and all my hope." The free citizens of Edinburgh will, to-day, vindicate the character of the persecuted patriots of 1793-4, and prove their devotion to the great cause to which Muir, Palmer, Skirving, Gerrald, Margarot, and, we may add, Burns—men of whom their own day was not worthy—were martyrs, by laying the foundation-stone of a monument to perpetuate and enshrine their memory. It is to be feared that but little, save their names, is generally known of this noble band of constitutional reformers. Nor is this to be wondered at, when it is recollected the imprisonment of Daniel O'Connell—the greatest political martyr of our own or any other period of history—creates in this country an interest and indignation quite disproportionate to the injustice of the act, and to the great principles violated by his incarceration. To dispel this ignorance is the object of the cheap publication before us. The main substance of it appeared some time since in that staunch advocate of universal freedom—*Tait's Magazine.* Other matter was afterwards added, and the whole published as a cheap pamphlet for general circulation. Those who desire a complete history of the "reign of terror," which prevailed in Scotland during 1793-4, we refer to the book itself. On the present occasion we can do little more than state one or two facts, and make a few extracts in illustration of the character and principles of the political martyrs of that day, with a view to vindicate their title, not merely to the honour which the erection of an earthly monument is intended to confer, but to be enshrined in every heart warm with the life-blood of freedom, as examples of heroic fortitude and suffering for the truth's sake.

Thomas Muir and Thomas Fyshe Palmer were the first victims of the political persecution which, in 1793, prevailed throughout Scotland. Muir was a successful advocate at the Scottish bar, distinguished for his talents, eloquence, the affability of his manners, the purity of his life, and his enthusiastic attachment to the principles of freedom. He was one of the first originators of a society which went by the name of "The Friends of the People," formed to co-operate with the reformers in London "to accomplish an equal representation of the people in parliament," and to obtain "a shorter duration of parliamentary delegation." The London society then reckoned among its leading members Mr, now Earl, Grey, Sir William Jones, Fox, Whitbread, with Sir James Mackintosh for secretary. In December, 1792, a convention of the friends of reform in Scotland was held at Edinburgh. This was speedily followed by the arrest of Muir on a charge of sedition. Muir escaped to France, but subsequently returned to his native land, where he was soon recognised, and retaken. In August he was tried before the Scotch judges, at the head of whom was the notorious Lord Justice Clerk Braxfield, on the charge of lending several works of a republican tendency, and reading an address from the society of United Irishmen to the Edinburgh convention. It would be useless here to enter upon the details of this infamous trial, conducted before a jury packed from the members of a society similar to the Orange associations of Ireland—a trial in which the forms and spirit of justice were openly set at defiance, and the prisoner and his witnesses browbeaten, interrupted, and insulted. The infamy of the proceedings can only be properly understood by reading the whole of the report. Among the witnesses produced against the prisoner were his own maid-servant and hair-dresser! Muir defended himself in a long, able, and eloquent address, concluding in the following terms:—

"What, then, has been my crime? Not the lending to a relation a copy of Mr Paine's works—not the giving away to another a few numbers of an innocent and constitutional publication—but my crime is for having dared to be, according to the measure of my feeble abilities, a strenuous and an active advocate for an equal representation of the people in the House of the People—for having dared to accomplish a measure, by legal means, which was to diminish the weight of their taxes, and to put an end to the profusion of their blood. Gentlemen, from my infancy to this moment, I have devoted myself to the cause of the people. It is a good cause—it shall ultimately prevail—it shall finally triumph. Say, then, openly in your verdict—if you do condemn me, which I presume you will not—that it is for my attachment to this cause alone, and not for those vain and wretched pretexts stated in the indictment, intended only to colour and disguise the real motives of my accusation."

He was sentenced to transportation for fourteen years, and removed to Edinburgh jail (where he was daily visited by crowds of reformers), from thence to the hulks, and last of all to a transport

ship, containing eighty-three convicts, which carried him to Botany Bay.

Mr Palmer was the next victim of the government prosecution. "He was an Englishman, and the pastor of a small Unitarian congregation in Dundee—a gentleman and a scholar, refined in mind and polished in manners; but he was also a sincere lover of his race—a true friend of the people." He was condemned to seven years' transportation for circulating an address of which the following is the most seditious passage:—

"Is not every new day adding a new link to our chains? Is not the executive branch daily seizing new, unprecedented, and unwarrantable powers? Has not the House of Commons (your only security from the evils of tyranny and aristocracy) joined the coalition against you? Is the election of its members either free, fair, or frequent? Is not its independence gone, while it is made up of pensioners and placemen? * * * We are not deterred or disappointed by the decision of the House of Commons concerning our petition. It is a question we did not expect (though founded on truth and reason) could be supported by superior numbers. Far from being discouraged, we are more and more convinced that nothing can save this nation from ruin, and give to the people that happiness they have a right to look for under government, but a reform in the House of Commons, founded on the eternal basis of justice—free and equal."

The summary punishment inflicted on Muir and Palmer did not quell the courage of the friends of the people. In October, 1793, the convention met again, now first assuming the name of the British Convention. Gerrald and Margarot arrived as delegates from London; and delegates were sent by the London Reform Society, Birmingham, Sheffield, and other places. After a short sitting the convention was dispersed:

"The scene, at the final dispersion of the convention, was very striking. The meetings of the convention, in compliance with the spirit of the members, had always been opened and closed with prayer. A strong vein of enthusiastic piety runs through especially the rural speeches and addresses of the period. They are full of Hebraisms, and of those turns of phrase peculiar to the covenanters. Religion, since become rather of good fashion among the tories, was certainly not the characteristic of the bold cavaliers of the profligate reign of Dundas; but the leading reformers were generally 'crop-eared, sniveling, praying knaves.' A good many of the delegates were dissenting clergymen. Muir, young as he was, had been an elder of the kirk; Skirving was educated for a dissenting minister, and was a sincerely pious man; and, when the brilliant Gerrald came to join the puritans of Scotland, he disguised the high-bred gentleman and accomplished scholar under the sober garb of a quaker, and, at the era of pig-tails and hair powder, wore his long hair in the primitive fashion of that sect. On the last night, Gerrald requested leave to pray as in ordinary sittings, before the convention was finally dispersed by authority. The sheriff granted permission; and he, and the few persons with him, for his main force was stationed without doors, uncovered, and stood mixed with the delegates, while Gerrald uttered this remarkable prayer—

"'O thou governor of the universe! we rejoice that, at all times and in all circumstances, we have liberty to approach thy throne; and that we are assured that no sacrifice is more acceptable to thee, than that which is made for the relief of the oppressed. In this moment of trial and persecution, we pray that thou wouldst be our defender, our counsellor, and our guide. Oh, be thou a pillar of fire to us, as thou wast to our fathers of old, to enlighten and to direct us; and to our enemies a pillar of cloud, and darkness, and confusion.

"'Thou art thyself the great patron of liberty. Thy service is perfect freedom. Prosper, we beseech thee, every endeavour which we make to promote thy cause; for we consider the cause of truth, or every cause which tends to promote the happiness of thy creatures, as thy cause.

"'O thou merciful father of mankind, enable us for thy name's sake to endure persecution with fortitude; and may we believe that all trials and tribulations of life which we endure, shall work together for good to them that love thee; and grant, that, the greater the evil, and the longer it may be continued, the greater good, in thy holy and adorable providence, may be produced therefrom. And this we beg, not for our own merits, but through the merits of Him who is hereafter to judge the world in righteousness and mercy.'

"The thrilling power of this prayer, at a moment of great excitement, was long spoken of by the auditors as something superhuman. When the delegates left the loft, and descended in groups to the open air, the agitated crowd, and the whole scene—St Leonard's at hand, and Arthur's seat and Salisbury crags in the distance—lighted by the flaring flambeaux of the sheriff's waiting train, was wild and striking.

"'Behold!' cried Gerrald, 'the funeral torches of liberty!'"

Skirving was arrested on the same night the convention was dispersed: Gerrald, Margarot, and Sinclair had been previously arrested, and were now on bail; and every hour brought its terrors in domiciliary visits, temporary arrests, and the seizure of papers. Skirving, who, like the rest of this noble band of reformers, appears to have been a highly-educated man, and in prosperous circumstances, was tried in January, 1794, convicted, and sentenced to fourteen years' imprisonment. "Joseph Gerrald was undoubtedly the most brilliant of this band of martyrs. He was one of those rare characters, combining the highest powers of intellect with their noblest direction, that arise but once in a generation. The impassioned eloquence and enthusiastic patriotism of Gerrald gave a strong impulse to the reformers of Scotland. In Edinburgh in particular, the young and ardent crowded around him night and day during his brief sojourn, hanging upon his glowing words as upon the accents of inspiration." His address to the jury is a master-piece of dignified, fervent eloquence. We give one short extract as a specimen:—

"It is a very melancholy consideration in the present times, and it is with a mixture of grief and astonishment I speak it, that the very same kind of arguments which, at the dawn of the reformation, were made use of by the catholic clergy, who were endeavouring to hold the people in the fetters of superstition, are now made use of by those very persons who, for purposes equally selfish, are repressing the progress of political information. Cardinal Bellarmine, a man eminent for learning, but vehement in his opposition of religious reformation, declaims particularly against the impious attempt to diffuse knowledge among the lower classes, and to lay open the *Holy Scriptures to vulgar eyes*. Religion in those days, it seems, like government in the present, was to be believed and confided in without being examined. Oh, preposterous insult to the dignity of human reason! Oh, blasphemy against the Author of all goodness! As if the Parent of knowledge were capable of giving a revelation to his creatures, to be adopted for ages by millions of reasonable beings, that would not stand the test of human inquiry! The true religion, like all free governments, appeals to the understanding for its support, and not to the sword. All systems, whether civil or moral, can only be durable in proportion as they are founded on truth, and calculated to promote the GOOD OF MANKIND. This will account to us why governments suited to the great energies of man have always outlived the perishable things which despotism has erected. Yes! this will account to us why the stream of time, which is continually washing away the dissoluble fabrics of all superstitious impostures, passes, without injury, by the adamant of Christianity."

"Those who are versed in the history of their country, in the history of the human race, must know that rigorous state prosecutions have always preceded the era of convulsion; and this era, I fear, will be accelerated by the folly and madness of our rulers. If the people are discontented, the proper mode of quieting their discontent is, not by instituting rigorous and sanguinary prosecutions, but by redressing their wrongs and conciliating their affections. Courts of justice, indeed, may be called in to the aid of ministerial vengeance; but if once the purity of their proceedings is suspected, they will cease to be objects of reverence to the nation; they will degenerate into empty and expensive pageantry, and become the partial instruments of vexatious oppression. Whatever may become of me, my principles will last for ever. Individuals may perish; but truth is eternal. The rude blasts of tyranny may blow from every quarter; but freedom is that hardy plant which will survive the tempest, and strike an everlasting root into the most unfavourable soil.

* * * * *

"Gentlemen, I am in your hands. About my life I feel not the slightest anxiety; if it would promote the cause, I would cheeerfully make the sacrifice; for, if I perish on an occasion like the present, out of my ashes will arise a flame to consume the tyrants and oppressors of my country."

In this powerful address Gerrald anticipated every argument which has since been brought against the demands of reformers, and established every claim they have set up for free government. The *Quarterly Review* described it, "on the authority of a hearer of no common discernment, as an effort of oratory unrivaled in its kind, such as drew tears from the presiding judge." While in the hulks, Gerrald received the following touching letter from his warm-hearted friend, Dr Parr:—

"DEAR JOSEPH—I hear with indignation and horror that the severe sentence passed upon you in Scotland is shortly to be carried into execution; and, remembering that I was once your master, that I have long been your friend—that I am your fellow-creature, made so by the hand of God—and that by every law of that religion in which I hope to live and die, I ought to be your comforter—now, dear Joseph, I am, for the last time, writing to you. Oh, my friend! at this moment, my heart sinks within me; and with a wish to say ten thousand things, I am hardly able to say one. But you shall not leave this land without one affectionate, one sincere, one solemn farewell. Joseph, before we meet again, that bosom which now throbs for you, that tongue which dictates, will be laid in the cold grave. Be it so; yet, my dear friend, I must cherish the hope that death is not the end of a being such as man. No, Joseph, no; there is a moral government going on, and, in the course of it, our afflictions will cease, and compensation will be made us, I trust, for all our unmerited sufferings. There is another world and a better; and in that world I pray to God that I may meet your face again. Bear up, I beseech you, against the hard and cruel oppression which the evil spirit of these days, and your own want of discretion, have brought upon you. Mackintosh has informed me of all that which is about to happen, and I have done all that I can in your favour. Let me conjure you, dear Joseph, to conduct yourself not only with firmness but calmness. Do not, do not by turbulence in conversation or action, give your enemies occasion to make the cup of misery more bitter. . . . . I do not mean, dear Joseph, to reproach you;—no, such an intention, at such a crisis, is and ought to be very far from my heart; but I do mean to advise you, and excite you to such a use of your talents as may console you under the sorrows of this life, and prepare you effectually for what is to follow. I will send you a few books, in addition to other matters; they will cheer you in the dreary hours of that forlorn spot to which the inhuman governors of this land are about to send you. Some time ago, I saw your dear boy; and depend upon it, that, for his sake and your own, I will show him every kindness in my power. I shall often think of you. Yes, Joseph, and there are moments, too, in which I shall pray for you. Farewell, dear Joseph Gerrald, and believe me your most unfeigned and afflicted friend,

"S. PARR.

"Pray write to me.—God Almighty bless you! Joseph! Farewell!"

This noble-minded, gifted, and devoted young man survived his trial but a short time. The confinement of a jail, and subsequently of the hulks and transport ship, together with the effects of being associated with the offscouring of society—burglars, thieves, and homicides—at Botany Bay, soon broke down his already shattered frame. He died in the spring of the year 1796. Muir, Palmer, Skirving, and Margarot were all shipped off to the penal settlement in the same convict ship, and were active in suppressing a mutiny of the convicts during the passage out. They were treated with much kindness by Captain Hunter, governor of the colony. Among other interesting facts relative to these noble men it is related, "that Muir used to print portions of scripture with his pen, which he gave away in the manner he considered most useful."

We trust we have said enough to commend the memory of these devoted patriots to the admiration and sympathy of our readers, as well as to prove how much they are entitled to the honour with which the citizens of Edinburgh intend to associate their memories. In condemnation of these trials, and vindication of their victims, we might have cited the declared sentiments of Mr Fox, Earl Grey, Lord Holland, Mr Sheridan, and other distinguished statesmen. This we consider quite superfluous. Their best vindication is their own actions. The erection of a monument to such men is as honourable to the citizens of Edinburgh as it is to these martyred patriots.

The Norwich Tune Book: a Collection of Psalm and Hymn Tunes, from the works of the most Eminent Composers; together with many that have never been published. Selected by a Committee, and arranged in Four Parts by JAMES T. HILL, Professor of Music, and JOHN HILL, Conductor of the Norwich Choral Society. London: Hamilton and Co. Norwich: Jarrold and Sons.

SUCH is the title page of a new contribution to the rather numerous than valuable additions to congregational psalmody which have, of late, put forward their claims to public attention. The programme is inviting, and calculated to raise high our expectations. The very name of Norwich is as much identified with excellence in music as its neighbour Yarmouth (a somewhat debasing comparison, we must admit) with the superiority of a certain piquant, appetising sauce. Its Choral society and oratorios would seem to be under the special guardianship of Melpomene herself. We, consequently, opened this book with the expectation of meeting not merely with excellence, but with something that would sustain the claims of that city to be regarded as the favoured abode of that muse. Nor, assuming, as we did, the austere garb of the public censor—determined to be critically nice—could we find aught in the volume before us to injure its fair fame. On the contrary, the work bears internal evidence of the equal care, judgment, and taste expended on its compilation. In the preface we are informed—"The great object aimed at by the committee has been to prepare a book containing such tunes only as are suited to divine worship, carefully avoiding the dull and unimpressive, as well as the fugue and the frivolous, and inserting those which are simple, dignified, and melodious, and adapted to all the variety of hymns which are accustomed to be sung by a congregation." The volume "contains 250 tunes, many of which have been selected from expensive works of professors eminent in musical talent, and many others have been courteously presented by gentlemen whose attention has been much devoted to the improvement of psalmody." The selections from our old standard tunes have been eminently judicious, and, in place of those monstrous abortions—conspicuous only in their worthlessness—which have found their way into most of our modern collections, we have a considerable number of genuine tunes, adapted from the works of great musical composers, as well as a few—and these not the least valuable—composed by the eminent compilers of the volume. One fault we cannot forbear noticing. Several time-honoured melodies, deserved favourites with the public, appear under a new name. For example, the tune which most people would recognise under the name of Chester has become Dover. The reason of this we cannot divine. Chester is, to our apprehension, as good a name as Dover.

"Sound it, it doth become the mouth as well:
Weigh it, it is as heavy."

This is only one of many equally frivolous innovations we have noticed. It is rather too bad that old and valued friends should, without apparent reason, be put into a disguise in which no one can recognise them, and old associations be ruthlessly severed in order that, for some inconceivable purpose, "tweedledum" may become "tweedledee." We would, therefore, advise that, in these cases, if opportunity occur (and we doubt not it will), the divorce should be annulled and the marriage re-celebrated.

BIRTHS.

Aug. 14, at the College house, Maabrough, the wife of Mr H. STOWELL, of a daughter.

Aug. 14, at Swansea, the wife of Mr G. THORNE, officer of excise, of a daughter.

Aug. 15, at Bedford, Mrs JAMES COOMBS, of a son and heir.

Aug. 16, the wife of Mr JOHN WILLIAMS, baptist minister, Hunslet, of two daughters.

MARRIAGES.

Aug. 5, at the Gallowtree Gate chapel, Leicester, by Mr G. Legge, A.M., JAMES M'DOUGAL, draper, of this town, to Miss ANN, only daughter of Mr John WILFORD, Sealford, in this county.

Aug. 9, at the independent chapel, Stansfield, T. E. SPACKMAN, Esq., of London, to MARY ANN, youngest daughter of William RAYNER, Esq., of Stradishall place, Suffolk.

Aug. 13, at Carey street chapel, Torquay, by Mr Orange, Miss CAWDLE, of Torre, daughter of the late Mr John Cawdle, to Mr HENRY KELLAGREW, son of Mr Kellagrew, of Cockington, South Devon.

Aug. 13, at the independent chapel, Throop, near Christchurch, by Mr D. Gunn, Mr CHARLES WILLS, B.A., minister of Throop chapel, to Miss ELIZA PRUDENCE ALDRIDGE, eldest daughter of Matthew Aldridge, Esq. of Muscliff.

Aug. 15, at York street chapel, Walworth, by Mr George Clayton, Mr WILLIAM M'KEWAN, of Surrey place, Old Kent road, to ANN, second daughter of Mr John COX, of the East India House.

Aug. 17, at Buckland chapel, Portsea, by Mr A. Jones, Mr ANDREWARTHA, to Miss E. BARHAM; also Mr JOHNSON, to Miss S. M. BARHAM, of Portsea.

DEATHS.

Aug. 12, aged 82, at Sherston Magna, Wilts, much respected by all who knew him, Mr THOMAS DEVERELL, for many years a deacon of the independent church of this place. His end was peace.

Aug. 14, at Chigwell row, CHARLOTTE, the beloved wife of Mr THOMAS HILL, dissenting minister, aged 26 years.

Trade and Commerce.

LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, August 16.

BANKRUPTS.

Cook, Frederick, Lambeth walk, Surrey, painter, August 16, Sept. 28: solicitor, Mr Marsden, 2, Cloak lane.

Law, William, Reading, Berkshire, draper, August 23, Sept. 26: solicitor, Mr F. H. Moger, 17, Paternoster row, London.

Rutherford, George Shortried, and Russell, Samuel, Sheffield, Britannia metal manufacturers, August 30, Sept. 27: solicitors, Mr A. Duncan, Featherstone buildings, London; Mr Unwin, Sheffield; and Mr Blackburn, Leeds.

Shore, John, Rochdale, Lancashire, flannel manufacturer, August 27, Sept. 20: solicitors, Mr William Heaton, Rochdale; Mr John Wilson, Manchester; and Messrs Chester and Co., Staple inn, London.

Taylor, John, Birmingham, licensed victualer, August 27, October 1: solicitor, Mr W. H. Capper, Birmingham.

Walton, Henry Christmas, Liverpool, surgeon, August 29, Sept. 26: solicitors, Messrs Chester and Co., Staple inn, London, and Mr Tyrer, Liverpool.

West, Henry, Burgh, Lincolnshire, grocer, August 30, Sept. 27: solicitors, Messrs Overdale and Co., Bedford row, London; Messrs Ingelby and Son, Louth; and Mr Blackburn, Leeds.

White, John Charles, and White, George Horwood, Bath, Somersetshire, music sellers, August 30, October 11: solicitor, Mr English, Bath.

York, Henry Charles, 12 and 13, Cheltenham place, Westminster road, lodging-house keeper, August 23, Sept. 26: solicitor, Mr I. Hubbard, 1, Queen street place, Southwark bridge.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

Crawford, Robert, Douries, Greenock, farmer, August 23, Sept. 13.

DIVIDENDS.

W. Wood and H. Port, Burton-upon-Trent, screw manufacturers; first div. of 20s. in the pound, under the separate estate of H. Port, and first div. of 1s. 3d. in the pound, under the separate estate of W. Wood, any Tuesday—W. and I. Dunnage, Tooley street, plumbers; first div. of 1½d. in the pound, any Saturday, except between Aug. 19 and Oct. 5—R. Mitchell, Leicester, hosier; second div. of 2s. in the pound, any day before Aug. 19, and any Thursday after Oct. 5—H. Baker, Mark lane, City, merchant; second div. of 2d. in the pound, any Saturday except between Aug. 19 and Oct. 5—E. Arnatt, Oxford, baker; first div. of 1s. 8d. in the pound, any Saturday except between Aug. 19 and Oct. 5—S. Moore, King William street, woolen draper, final div. of 3d. in the pound, any Saturday except between Aug. 19 and Oct. 5—D. Sandeman and A. Graham, John street, near America square, merchants; final div. of 1½d. in the pound, any Saturday, except between Aug. 19 and Oct. 5.

Tuesday, August 20.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the act of 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 85:—

Primitive methodist chapel, Tower hill, Bromyard, Herefordshire.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

Farrant, John Brjom. Leman, Maidstone, agricultural machine maker.

BANKRUPTS.

Britton, William, Borrowby, Yorkshire, manufacturer of linen cloth, August 30, October 4: solicitors, Messrs Maples and Co., Frederick's place, Old Jewry, London; Messrs Arrowsmith and Co., Thirsk; and Messrs Payne and Co., Leeds.

Edwards, Edward, 55, City road, draper, August 28: solicitors, Messrs Turner and Henesman, Basing lane, City.

Fuller, William, of the Cliffe, near Lewes, Sussex, currier, August 30: solicitor, Mr Waltham, Furnival's inn.

Giles, George Frederick, 51, Bedford street, Covent garden, carver and gilder, August 30, October 3: solicitor, Mr George Cox, Sise lane, Bucklersbury.

Good, Edward Mark, Rye lane, Peckham, and Goosegreen, Dulwich, farmer, August 30, October 1.

Gregg, James, Birmingham, blacksmith, Sept. 5, October 3: solicitors, Mr S. Smith, Walsall, and Mr E. H. Collis, Birmingham.

Maniglier, John, 73, Oxford street, watchmaker, August 30, October 3: solicitors, Messrs Willoughby and Jaquet, 13, Clifford's inn.

Pure, George, 78, Upper Thames street, city, ale merchant, August 29, October 8: solicitor, Mr Beanlands, Cook's court, Carey street.

Roberts, Thomas, Blackman street, Southwark, linen draper, August 30, October 1: solicitors, Messrs Sole, Aldermanbury.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

Hamilton, John, Neilston, innkeeper, August 26, Sept. 17.

DIVIDENDS.

W. Kemp, Northumberland street, tailor, final div. of 1½d. in the pound, payable any Saturday—A. Scott, Cambridge street, auctioneer, first div. of 10d. in the pound, payable any Saturday—T. Bagshaw, Buxton, Derbyshire, innkeeper, first div. of 4s. 5d. in the pound, payable any Wednesday after October 5—R. Hine, Sutton, Cheshire, grocer, final div. of 4¾d. in the pound, any Wednesday after October 5—J. Dixon, Sheffield, linen draper, first div. of 10s. in the pound, payable any Thursday after October 5—J. King, Kingston-upon-Hull, mercer, sec. div. of 8d. in the pound, payable any Thursday after October 5—W. Smithson, Thirsk, Yorkshire, linen draper, div. of 5s. in the pound, any Thursday after October 5—G. Salter, 50, Davies street, builder, div. of 10d. in the pound, payable any Wednesday after October 19—R. T. Jones, Oxford, chemist, first div. of 8s. 10d. in the pound, payable any Wednesday after October 5—R. Webster, Oxford market, victualer, first div. of 1s. 6d. in the pound, payable any Wednesday after October 19.

BRITISH FUNDS.

A reaction has occurred during the past week in the value of the public securities, amounting to ¼ per cent. on the extreme prices. The premium upon the unfunded debt has followed in the same course as consols and other securities, but the fall has not comparatively been so heavy.

	Wed.	*Thur.*	*Fri.*	*Sat.*	*Mon.*	*Tues.*
3 per cent. Consols	99¼	99¼	98¾	98¾	98¾	98¾
Ditto for Account..	99¼	99¼	98¾	98¾	98¾	98¾
3 per cents Reduced	99¼	99¼	99¼	99¼	99¼	99¾
3½ per cts. Reduced	102¾	102¾	103¼	102¼	102¼	102
New 3½ per cent....	101¼	101¼	101¾	101¼	101¾	101
Long Annuities...	13¼	13⅛	12⅞	12⅛	12⅛	12⅛
Bank Stock.....	200	199¾	199¾	199¼	199¼	199
India Stock.....	—	283¼	—	282½	28½	282½
Exchequer Bills...	75pm	73pm	73pm	75pm	73pm	74pm
India Bonds	93pm	—	—	94pm	—	—

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Austrian	—	Mexican	35¾
Belgian	103¼	Peruvian	24
Brazilian	94¼	Portuguese 5 per cents	—
Buenos Ayres	34¾	Ditto 3 per cents	43¾
Columbian	13¾	Russian	121
Danish	89	Spanish Active	22¾
Dutch 2½ per cents	61¾	Ditto Passive	5¾
Ditto 5 per cents	100¾	Ditto Deferred	12¾

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham and Derby	81	London & Birm. ½ Shares	—
Birmingham & Gloucester	114	London and Brighton ..	47¾
Blackwall	7½	London & Croydon Trunk	19¼
Bristol and Exeter	80	London and Greenwich	9
Cheltenham & Gt. Western	—	Ditto New	0¼
Eastern Counties	12¼	Manchester and Leeds	120
Edinburgh and Glasgow	—	Midland Counties	109
Grand Junction	219	Ditto Quarter Shares ..	—
Great North of England..	110¼	North Midland	—
Great Western	135	Ditto New	46
Ditto Half	81¼	South Eastern and Dover	38¾
Ditto Fifths	—	South Western	86¼
London and Birmingham	224	Ditto New	—

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, Monday, August 19.

The supply of English wheat this morning was not large; there were about 1,000 quarters of the new crop; the quality in general was heavy, and in good condition, but the colour rather dull. Old foreign and English wheat was in request, at rather better prices than this day week, but they did not realise the advanced prices asked, and to a moderate extent made, on Wednesday and Friday. English barley being exceedingly scarce commanded quite as much money, and for free foreign there was a slightly improved demand at previous prices. The large supply of oats, and the favourable change in the weather combined, have occasioned a considerable heaviness in the trade. Beans are in good demand, and 1s. to 2s. per quarter dearer. Peas are unaltered in value.

	s.		s.
Wheat, Red New ..	44	to	52
Fine	52	..	54
White	48	..	56
Fine	56	..	58
Flour, per sack	36	..	50
Barley	24	..	30
Malting	32	..	35
	s.		s.
Beans, Pigeon	32	to	36
Harrow	30	..	32
Oats, Feed	18	..	20
Fine	21	..	22
Poland	21	..	22
Potato	20	..	24

	s.		s.
Malt, Ordinary ..	46	to	60
Pale	61	..	65
Rye	28	..	36
Peas, Hog	29	..	34
Maple	30	..	35
Boilers	32	..	38
Beans, Ticks.....	28	..	35

DUTY ON FOREIGN CORN.

Wheat	18s. 0d.
Barley	4 0
Oats	6 0
Rye	7 6
Beans	6 6
Peas	6 6

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR AUG. 16.

Wheat	48s. 10d.
Barley	34 6
Oats	20 1
Rye	35 9
Beans	35 6
Peas	34 2

AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF THE SIX WEEKS.

Wheat	52s. 10d.
Barley	34 5
Oats	21 4
Rye	35 5
Beans	36 8
Peas.....	36 6

SEEDS.

The recently established advance on rape seed was not very freely paid this morning; and the operations were therefore on rather a restricted scale. For canary seed high rates were demanded, whereby the inquiry was checked, nor was there much business done in any other description of seed.

Linseed	per qr		
English, sowing	54s.	to	60s.
Baltic, ditto	—	..	—
Ditto, crushing ..	40	..	42
Medit. & Odessa	41	..	43
Hempseed, small ..	35	..	38
Large	—	..	—
Canary, new	56	..	60
Extra	—	..	—
Carraway, old	44	..	46
New.....	44	..	52
Ryegrass, English	—	..	—
Scotch	—	..	—
Mustard	per bushel		
Brown, new	10	..	16
White	7	..	10
Trefoil.....	23	..	30
Old	12	..	26
Tares, new.....	7	..	8

Clover	per cwt.		
English, red....	52s.	to	60
Ditto, white	—	..	—
Flemish, pale ..	—	..	—
Ditto, fine.....	—	..	—
New Hamb., red	45	..	50
Ditto, fine.....	56	..	110
Old Hamb., red	38	..	44
Ditto, fine.....	—	..	—
French, red	—	..	—
Ditto, white	—	..	—
Coriander	15	..	18
Old	—	..	—
Rapeseed	per last		
English, new ..	23*l.*	to	24*l.*
Linseed cakes			
English..	9*l.* 15s.	to	10*l.* 10s.
Foreign.....	6*l.* 15s.	to	7*l.*
Rapeseed cakes	—	to	—

PROVISIONS, London, August 19.

The arrivals last week from Ireland were 5,393 firkins butter, and 1,572 bales bacon; and from foreign ports 7,245 casks butter. For Irish butter there was a limited amount of business transacted, at prices, in some instances, 1s. to 2s. lower than last quoted on board and landed. Dutch as before—80s. to 82s. per cwt. Very little has been done in Waterford and Limerick singed bacon since our last. Prices have declined about 2s. per cwt. Bale and tierce middles, hams, and lard partake of the general dulness, and all the turn cheaper.

HOPS, Borough, Monday, August 19.

Considerable business is doing at advanced quotations. A great part of the Weald of Kent and Sussex will do but very little. The weather is too cold for the plant generally, even in the good districts. Sussex pockets 6*l.* to 6*l.* 10s., and Wealds, 6*l.* 4s. to 6*l.* 15s. per cwt. Farnham accounts read very favourably, and there are one or two other districts which present a much better appearance than Weald or Sussex. The stocks on hand are diminishing, and holders evince more confidence in the future.

BUTCHER'S MEAT, Smithfield, Monday, August 19.

The arrivals of beasts to-day were rather limited, and, generally speaking, of very middling quality. The attendance of both town and country buyers being numerous, and the weather favourable to slaughtering, the demand was steady for all kinds of beef, at, in most instances, an advance in the quotations obtained last week of 2d. per 8lbs, and at which the whole of the supply was disposed of. Since this day se'nnight, the imports of live stock for the kingdom have been confined to about fifty beasts from Holland and Germany. The numbers of sheep were seasonably good; the trade was active, and prices had an upward tendency. Calves, the supply of which was good, met a steady demand, and previous rates were well supported. The pork trade was heavy, but no alteration took place in value.

Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal).

Beef	2s. 8d.	to	4s. 0d.	Veal.....	3s. 6d.	to 4s. 6d.
Mutton	2 10	..	4 0	Pork.....	3 0	.. 4 0
Lamb.....	3 8	..	4 8			

Head of Cattle at Smithfield.

	Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
Friday	571	9,960	348	280
Monday	2,736	35,230	163	295

Newgate and Leadenhall Markets, Monday, August 19.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.

Inferior Beef	2s. 4d.	to	2s. 6d.	Inf. Mutton	2s. 6d.	to 2s. 10d.
Middling do	2 8	..	2 10	Mid. ditto	3 0	.. 3 4
Prime large	3 0	..	3 2	Prime ditto	3 6	.. 3 8
Prime small	3 4	..	3 6	Veal	3 4	.. 4 4
Large Pork	2 4	..	3 4	Small Pork	3 6	.. 3 10

Lambs, 3s. 8d. to 4s. 8d.

HAY, Smithfield, Aug. 17.—At per load of 36 trusses.

Coarse Meadow ..	72s.	to	84s.
New ditto	—	..	—
Useful Old ditto ..	86	..	92
Fine Upland ditto	94	..	100
New Clover Hay ..	95s.	to	126s.
Old ditto	—	..	—
Oat Straw	26	..	28
Wheat Straw	28	..	32

COTTON.

The market has been dull throughout the week, with a slight tendency downward for ordinary and middling qualities of American and Surat, and these may be quoted 3d. to ⅛d. per lb. lower; the higher qualities are stationary. Brazils and Egyptians are also heavy of sale, and rather easier to buy. Sea Islands without change. There have been taken for exportation, 4,500 American and 500 Surat, and the total sales amount to 29,700 bales.

WOOL.

We have no alteration to note in the English trade from last week; sales have scarcely been so extensive, yet prices are equally as firm in both long and short wool. There is a moderate demand for laid Highland wool. White Highland is also inquired for, and the new wool meets a ready sale. Several lots of new cross wool have been sold from the quay, on arrival, at full rates. Cheviot of a good quality being wanted, likewise commands a ready sale. The market for foreign wool continues steady.

COAL EXCHANGE, August 19.

Stewart's, 23s. 6d.; Hetton's, 23s. 6d.; Braddyll's Hetton's, 23s. 6d. Ships arrived this week, 161.

GROCERIES.—Tuesday, August 20.

SUGAR.—150 hhds Barbadoes sold in auction at lower rates; good to fine yellow fetched 61s. to 64s.; middling to good middling yellow 57s. to 59s. 6d. per cwt. The purchases made by the trade amount to 650 hhds and tierces. In refined goods there was a fair business doing; standard lumps selling at 73s. to 73s. 6d., and brown lumps at 72s. to 72s. 6d. per cwt. The Dutch Trading company have declared 40,000 baskets of Java for auction on the 5th September.

COFFEE.—800 bales Mocha sold in auction at a further decline of 1s. to 2s. per cwt.; middling brown garbled went at 70s. to 71s. 6d.; good middling greenish was bought in at 72s. per cwt.; 200 bags Ceylon, offered in auction, were partly sold; peaberry fetched 81s. to 93s.; low middling, British plantation sort, 80s. to 85s.; fine fine ordinary, 75s. 6d. to 76s. 6d. per cwt.

RICE.—6,000 bags Bengal, offered in auction, were only in part sold, at lower rates; middling white, 10s. 6d. to 11s.; good middling bold, 11s. to 11s. 6d. per cwt.

Advertisements.

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METROPOLITAN ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

AT a MEETING of the MEMBERS of this ASSOCIATION, held at the KING'S HEAD TAVERN, POULTRY, on WEDNESDAY EVENING, Aug. 14th, 1844,

Mr MUMFORD in the Chair,

The following Resolutions were unanimously passed:—

Moved by Mr Chesterman; and seconded by Mr Curling:

I. That the Report of the Committee now read be adopted.

Moved by Mr Dick; and seconded by Mr D. Pratt:—

II. That this Association, the first established, having for its sole object the separation of the Church from the state, feels called upon to review its position as affected by the formation of the British Anti-state-church Association.

From this review, the Meeting is of opinion—

1st. That the Establishment of the Metropolitan Association was called for by the advance which the question had made in the public mind, and that its labours, though limited, have not been unattended with success.

2ndly. That this Association rejoiced in the calling of the Anti-state-church Conference, and the formation by that Assembly of the British Association, which, from its national character, its liberal suffrage, and the magnitude of its proposed efforts, preeminently claims the support of every friend of religious freedom.

3rdly. That this Meeting is of opinion that the existence of two associations having the same object, and employing similar means, is inexpedient; and that, therefore, it is desirable and is hereby determined that this Association shall forthwith be dissolved.

Moved by Mr Evans; seconded by Mr W. Crellin:—

III. That this Association desires to express its high sense of the valuable services rendered to the Association by its Secretaries, Messrs Simmons and C. Miall, and begs, as a last, but genuine expression of its feelings, to tender to those Gentlemen its warmest thanks.

Moved by Mr Holmes; seconded by Mr Mabbs:—

IV. That the thanks of the Association are due, and are hereby given to its Treasurer, Mr John Marshall, and to the Committee, for their able and efficient services.

Moved by Mr Smith; seconded by Mr J. Cook, jun.:—

V. That the following gentlemen, viz., Messrs Dick, Templeton, Gestringham, W. Crellin, P. Crellin, Pulsford, Pratt, Rains, Ruddick, Simmons, Marshall, Miall, and Bowser, be appointed a Committee, to whom shall be forwarded all cards or moneys for cards remaining in the hands of members, who shall pay all outstanding claims of the Association, dispose of its books and papers as they deem best, and advertise the proceedings of the meeting at their discretion.

*** All communications with reference to the Association to be addressed to Mr G. Simmons, 203, Upper Thames street.

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